

Echo

COMPLICIT IN ORCHESTRATING LOCAL GATHERINGS SINCE 1986
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #01 • June 11, 2025 • www.echo.net.au

b '25
Byron Writers
Festival
Passion & Purpose
8-10 August
Bangalow Showground
byronwritersfestival.com

Writers Festival
program with
this issue!



Authors Kayte Nunn (*The Palazzo*) and Denise Alison (*Humans of Lismore*), Bundjalung woman and Byron Shire councillor, Delta Kay, with Artistic Director, Jessica Alice. Photo Jeff Dawson

Writers fest locked and loaded

The 2025 Byron Writers Festival program has been revealed!

More than 160 heavyweights in the Australian and international literary scene will explore the important themes shaping our world at the scenic Bangalow Showground from August 8 to 10.

With the theme 'Passion and Purpose', the festival will host more than 160 writers with thought-provoking panels, in-depth discussions, debate and intimate conversations.

Additionally, the festival will feature an array of workshops, a dedicated children's program and special feature events.

Bold conversations

Festival organisers say, 'From celebrated novelists, memoirists, poets and essayists to leading political commentators, academics and activists, the program promises

A sample of who is on the Writers Fest bill:

Esther Freud, John Vaillant, Helen Garner, Michelle de Kretser, Don Watson, Gail Jones, Tony Armstrong, Jackie Huggins, Barry Jones, Andrew Denton, Hannah Kent, Michael Robotham, Robert Dessaix, Ziggy Ramo, Hannah Ferguson, Richard Denniss, Peter Grete, Anita Heiss, Clare Wright, Thomas Mayo, Judith Brett, Shankari Chandran, Simon Holmes à Court, Richard Scolyer, Markus Zusak, Tom Keneally, Zoë Foster Blake and more... visit www.byronwritersfestival.com for full list.

bold and wide-ranging conversations spanning social justice, politics, the environment, crime, mortality and human connection.

Artistic Director, Jessica Alice, says of the 2025 theme, 'Passion and Purpose': 'This year's festival is an exuberant celebration of the art of reading, writing, and living with purpose featuring renowned writers and the most impressive new voices. We are honoured to present these brilliant authors and thinkers who will ignite your curiosity and

passion for a life well lived, and big ideas for a better world.'

Foodie/kids program

Foodie favourites Virginia Trioli, Nadine Ingram, and Ben Shewry will share their unique insights into culture, creativity, and cuisine, while at the Sunday Kids Program, beloved children's authors including Peter Helliar, Zanni Louise and Tony Armstrong will offer laughter, imagination, and heartwarming tales for young readers.

Land acquisition now part of botched DA

Councillors vote this week on proposal that will impact 13,000 daily vehicle movements

Hans Lovejoy

A large exclusive 39-large-lot green-field development between Uncle Toms and Mullumbimby will be voted upon by councillors on Thursday, which has been the subject of countless stuff-ups by the applicant and Council planning staff.

A myriad of unanswered questions also surround the project, which, if approved, will impact the busy Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane intersection.

Senior Council planning staff are pushing for councillors to adopt the planning agreement with the developers, yet it has been challenged by neighbours as being non-compliant under NSW guidelines and Council policy.

Deputy mayor, Jack Dods, told *The Echo* he will recuse himself from voting owing to a pecuniary interest as a consultant to the proposal.

Previously, he declared a non-pecuniary interest as councillor when issues around development application (DA) 10.2023.454.1 were discussed in Council.

Along with being a lead designer to the developers prior to be elected, Cr Dods was the son of the partner of developer John Callanan, who is one of the applicants. The other is developer Tim Mundy.

Cr Dods claims the difference now is that the DA is being voted upon, so he will declare his interest as pecuniary, rather than non-pecuniary.

While he maintains this is proper process, Council staff are yet to reply

to *The Echo* as to whether he met code of conduct requirements. Cr Dods is refusing to ask staff to clarify.

He said, 'I will not ask staff to respond to your questions on this matter, as doing so would be entirely inappropriate given my clear commitment to remain uninvolved with this project in my role as a councillor'.

Additionally, it is unclear if Cr Dods met requirements given the proposal was incorrectly assessed initially - it was submitted without a community consultation report and neighbours say his promises of consultation were not met.

Council staff have also not replied to that question.

A key element to Thursday's decision by councillors is whether to adopt the staff recommendation to compulsorily acquire a sliver of land on the corner of Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane.

No consultation

Yet that proposal comes without consultation with the landholders, which appears to contravene policy.

The landholders told *The Echo*, 'We are astounded that we were not given a heads-up that the fate of the property will be voted on this Thursday. There's been zero contact from Council staff and the developers around this. This could happen to any landowner and it concerns us greatly'.

The landholders previously told *The Echo* that they were

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OAM ► p5

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ever be artificial?
► p10

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Melissa Begg
► p12

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on great local
biz ► p18

Seven: all your North
Coast entertainment
covered ► p20

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Áine bids farewell – for now



Áine Tyrell was at the Bruns Picture House on Sunday to give her final concert for a while. 'Singing Our Way Home' is her single, the name of her concert, and just what Áine and her family are about to do. She is heading back to the west country of Ireland, but vows to come back regularly to perform in her beloved Bundjalung Country. Photo Jeff Dawson

John Nardi recognised for service

Congratulations to John Nardi, who will be receiving the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), in recognition of his decades of dedicated service to the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

The RFS said in a statement, 'John Nardi joined the former Goonengerry, Nashua and Eureka Brigade in the Byron Shire hinterland in 1971 and has continually served as an operational member for 54 years.'

Founding member of Federal Brigade

'Following expansion in the area, he was a founding member of the Federal Brigade in 1993 and the brigade's first senior deputy captain.

'John used his own farming equipment to undertake all earthworks of the site at his own expense.

'John served as the deputy captain for 11 years, a brigade training officer for 16 years and was elected as captain in 2001, his current role.

'He has also held the role of the deputy group captain for the district and served as a permit officer for 15 years.

'John has assisted in significant campaign fires in the Clarence, Northern Rivers and Far North Coast areas, and assumed senior roles



John Nardi. Photo supplied

as sector and divisional commander.

'He has assisted in leading RFS crews in community recovery for numerous events, including the 2022 North Coast floods and ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

'John represented the RFS on the local Bush Fire Management Committee from 2015 to 2022 and contributed his local knowledge to the development of the Far North Coast Fire Access Fire Trail Plan in 2021.

'Despite weathering drought and personal hardship, John has continually prioritised the RFS, brigade and community, before his own interests, with unwavering dedication and commitment.'

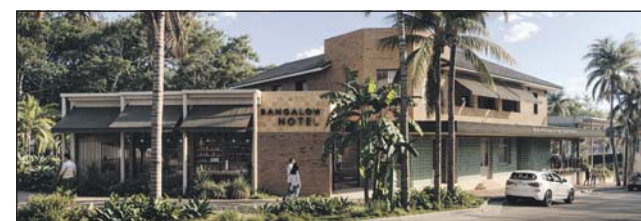
\$13m Bangalow pub reno on public exhibition

The Bangalow Community Association (BCA) has objected against a planned \$13m upgrade of the town's iconic pub, saying that amended plans, 'do not adequately address the numerous community concerns expressed at a well-attended and informative pre-development application (DA) community consultation meeting'.

The redevelopment of the Bangalow Hotel is back on public exhibition, with numerous requests for information (RFIs) by Council planning staff being addressed by the applicant.

Issues flagged included heritage, traffic, stormwater, waste and acoustics.

According to Development Application (DA) 10.2024.416.1, the historic building dates back to around 1939/40, 'when Bangalow had a population of maybe 1,000 people (now nearly 10,000 people)'.



Bangalow Hotel concept plans from DA 10.2024.416.1

Consultant architecture firm, Fabric, make the case for improvements, so that the pub remains 'commercially viable, operationally efficient and provide a workplace that meets contemporary occupational health and safety standards for staff. This is a major driving factor from the owners/clients perspective'.

Demolition work is internal only, say the applicant's consultants, 'and has been significantly reduced by the amendments'.

However, Ian Holmes from BCA writes 'Byron LEP and DCP 2014 conditions clearly state that the fabric within a heritage item must be restored, rather than being

destroyed and rearranged, as emphasised by the BSC planner and heritage advisor'.

With 20 gaming machines proposed, the applicants made their case for creating a gaming room where the entertainment space currently is.

They say the current gaming room is in a line of sight to patrons, and 'prohibits efficient operation'.

And given the music room has not been used for live entertainment for a number of years, the space will enable users, 'to come and go without interacting with the venue at large'.

The 37 documents associated with DA 10.2024.416.1 are on Council's website.

Land acquisition now part of botched DA

► **Continued from page 1** approached by Council staff to see if they were interested in selling their land to facilitate the development. They were told by staff the land was not required for Council's own roadworks, but would provide more safety.

Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy, and Rob Van Lersel, contract planner, write in the upcoming June 12 Council agenda, 'If the draft (revised) Planning Agreement is not approved, then the DA for the subdivision will have traffic safety issues at the intersection that may not be able to be resolved which may prove fatal to the DA'.

This is despite the planning agreement appearing to not fully comply with the NSW Government's Practice Note on Planning Agreements or

Council's own Policy Planning Agreements 2021.

The planning agreement identifies that any payments made by the applicant for the land acquisition and cycleways are to be considered as deductions from any calculated developer contributions.

Odds with policy

This is at odds with Council policy that states that payments required in a Planning Agreement are meant to be additional to calculated developer contributions.

It appears the developers will receive a discount and the 'public benefit' is reduced, as funds will not be available for other works.

These claims have been put to Council staff and any reply will be published.

While Council's vote is crucial, the DA will ultimately

decided upon by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) on June 18.

Within NRPP's record of site inspection, which was held on June 3, the only people listed who attended the meeting were the applicants (including Cr Dods), Council staff and NRPP representatives. No neighbours were invited and no other councillors attended.

While 14 matters were discussed, a neighbour told *The Echo* that issues around the impacts on their bore, located nearby, remain unanswered. Additionally, the record of site inspection does not mention community consultation as being an unmet requirement of the DA, and the Council staff report on the matter does not mention the long list of mistakes made.

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Isobel's portrait makes Young Archie finals

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

There must be something in the water colours in the Northern Rivers, as another local junior has had her work hung on the walls of the Art Gallery of NSW, in Sydney, as a finalist in the Young Archies.

Around 3,200 entries were submitted, and 70 were selected as finalists – there were also 20 honourable mentions.

Isobel was just 11 when she painted a portrait of Oma, her great-grandmother Ilse, and entered into the competition.

'Oma' was just one of 20 finalists selected for the nine to 12 year-old section.

The Teven artist, who has since turned 12, said she decided first to enter the competition and then decided to paint Ilse.

'I wanted to do Oma because she's been around for a long time, and I really wanted to capture that,' said Isobel.

'I asked her if I could paint her, and we took a photo. Oma sat for the sketch and I did the painting in acrylics from the photo.'

Isobel says from the time she started the sketch, to the



Oma and Isobel on the couch are sharing a celebratory morning tea with Xavier, Andrew and grandma Trish. Inset is Isobel's painting of Oma.

finished piece, was a whopping two hours.

She said she found out a week before the announcement but had to keep it a secret until it became official – but she did tell her bestie.

Ilse got quite a surprise when she found out about her great-granddaughter being a finalist.

'She didn't tell me that she would enter it in the Young Archies. She just asked me, "can I paint you?" I said yes.'

Ilse, who is 93, said she

was very happy about it though.

'I was very surprised, but it's very nice,' she said.

Once in a lifetime

Isobel and her family are making plans to travel to Sydney for this very exciting once-in-a-lifetime event, and are looking forward to the announcement of the winners on July 5.

Isobel, who takes art classes with Kay Knight of Lennox Head, is not sure what is next in her artistic career.

'I don't really know. I mean, probably the next page of my sketchbook.'

The exhibition will be on until August 17, with finalists at the Art Gallery of NSW as a free display, alongside the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prize exhibits.

The Young Archies will travel to Lismore as part of the Archibald Prize tour from July 5 to August 31.

For more information about the Archibald prizes, visit www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au.

Former Nats MP Donald Page awarded OAM

Former local NSW Nationals MP, Donald Page, has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List.

The award, given by Governor-General Sam Mostyn AC, was for service to the NSW Parliament, and to the community.

The Byron Bay resident was the member for the Ballina electorate from 1988 until 2015, and served as minister for local government from

2011 till 2014.

He also served as parliamentary secretary to planning and housing, transport and tourism, public works and roads, and as the deputy premier.

Deputy leader

He was deputy leader of the National Party of Australia from 2003 to 2007.

Since 2016, he has been chair of Regional Development Australia Northern

Rivers, which describes itself as a 'leadership voice for the region'.

Mr Page has been involved with community groups such as the Rotary and Lions Clubs, Australian Seabird Rescue, Far North Coast Legacy, Bangalow Music Festival, Returned and Services League of Australia, the Byron and Ballina Hospital Auxiliary, Alstonville Red Cross and the Ballina Rugby Club.



Photo parliament.nsw.gov.au

Elders' hub, June 14

The next meeting at the Elders' Hub in Mullumbimby will be on Saturday, June 14, beginning with a sharing circle at 10am and followed by a presentation by Judy Arpana called 'Facing Death – Embracing Life'.

Organisers say, 'Over the years, Judy has helped many people to face their fears about dying, with the bonus that they then live a richer, fuller life. In this talk, Judy will draw from her experiences and share with you ways of learning to meet

death and better understand this most inevitable of human processes'.

'Judy Arpana is a counsellor and has worked with people with life threatening illness, and grief and loss, for the past 30 years.

'Judy has been a student of Tibetan Buddhism for 30 years and has studied with many Buddhist masters', say organisers.

Elders' Hub will be held at the yurt in the Gordon Street permaculture gardens.

All are welcome!

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Bruns packed for Old & Gold



Beck Ryan and her 1960s mixmaster were at the Old & Gold festival, held in Brunswick Heads on Saturday. The town buzzed all day with market stalls, live music, ice creams and sunshine. Photo Jeff Dawson

Overcome anxiety and claim back your life

Mandy Nolan

Anxiety disorders are the world's most common mental health issue.

And women are twice as likely to be diagnosed than men. Most anxiety has an onset during childhood or adolescence, but there's no rules. Anxiety can be caused by stress, grief, illness or trauma at any time.

Jules Allen is a social scientist and an anxiety treatment expert who



Jules Allen. Photo supplied

believes that people can not only manage their anxiety, that if given the right tools, they can live a life free of it.

'Anxiety is a fear of the

unknown. A feeling of worry, nervousness or unease about something with an uncertain outcome,' says Jules.

'It is learnt. It starts as a natural fear response to a perceived or real threat.'

Jules developed her Anxiety Hack Toolkit because of her own lived experience.

'About 15 years ago, I was crippled by anxiety. With tools at that time failing me, I made it my mission to find a way to tackle and overcome the symptoms of anxiety. Furthermore, having worked with

people in crisis for 28 years, I have seen a phenomenal rise in those suffering anxiety. I believe that many of the management strategies suggested are not only ineffective, but can actually exacerbate the symptoms of anxiety.'

So can people really overcome anxiety?

'Yes,' says Jules.

Jules Allen will be presenting The Anxiety Hack: The Toolkit, at the Marvell Hall in Byron Bay on Tuesday, June 17 from 7-9pm. To book, visit www.julesallen.com.au.



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Refugee advocates celebrate ten years

Russell Eldridge

Northern Rivers for Refugees (NRRF) is inviting the community to a free celebration on Sunday, June 15, to mark NRRF's tenth anniversary and the start of National Refugee Week.

The venue is Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall, from 4pm till 6.30pm, with music, food and drinks.

Organisers say their 200 local volunteers have settled 42 refugees in the area, and are currently welcoming three families each year.

'NRRF is totally self-funded, and has raised \$366,000 through market stalls, music events and barbecues. It costs about \$20,000 to support each family for a year.'

'Entertainment for June 15 will be provided by popular local musician Smokey Fields, who has been a staunch supporter of refugee settlement.

'The celebration will also launch the next major fundraising venture, Cup of Kindness. The brainchild of local identity, Ollie Heathwood, Cup of Kindness asks people to donate the equivalent of a cup of coffee a week.



Chris Mallory, aka Smokey Fields, of Dead Legends fame, and Ollie Heathwood, volunteer coordinator for Northern Rivers for Refugees. NRRF is celebrating its tenth anniversary, with a free community celebration on June 15. Photo supplied

'Every cent goes towards rebuilding the lives of people who have fled war and persecution to start again in Australia.'

'NRRF is also a passionate advocate for refugees and asylum seekers. The group continually lobbies politicians to show justice and compassion for displaced people, whether in Australia or in overseas detention.'

'Support has been provided for refugees in hiding from the Taliban, including paying for food and medical costs.'

NRRF president Marilyn

Leeks said, 'These grassroots efforts remind us that seeking asylum is a human right, and being a refugee is never a choice - it's a consequence of war, oppression, and persecution.'

'The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates there are over 43.4 million refugees worldwide. Australia takes in around 20,000 annually. Northern Rivers for Refugees may be contacted on www.nrrf.org.au'

■ Russell Eldridge is from NRRF.

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John Bennett receives an OAM

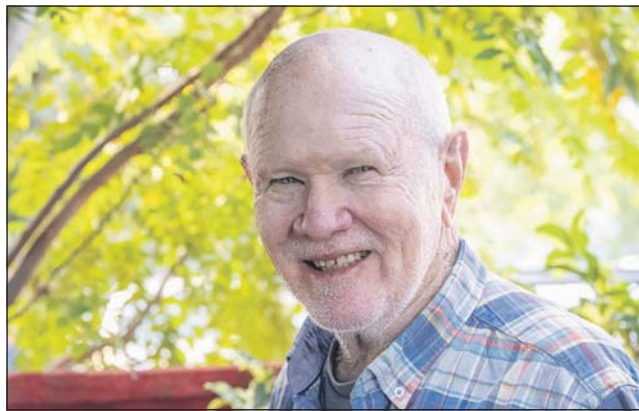
Aslan Shand

Local, John Bennett, has this week received an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for his exceptional volunteer work and philanthropy throughout the Northern Rivers over the last 30 years.

Following his retirement from his successful market research company Bennett Research he moved to the Northern Rivers in 1989 at the age of 49.

'I had put my efforts into my job, and after my early retirement, I wanted to give something back,' he told *The Echo*. John has been a founder and contributor to many of the key projects that the region is known for, from the Uncle Project, Byron Youth Service, Byron Bay Writers Festival and The Buttery, to the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Enova Energy, Sourdough Business Pathways and the NEIS (New Enterprise Incentive Scheme) program.

'This was my first introduction to community volunteering through Paul Jameson. I would give talks to NEIS applicants and then went on the selection panel.'



John Bennett OAM. Photo Jeff Dawson

Paul says, 'One of the key features of John is getting the right people involved in projects.'

John added, 'The key thing is that different people bring different skills to any project. We need more volunteers, especially in their 50s and 60s to get projects going and keep current projects running. So many people have a professional and business skills they can transfer to these types or organisations.'

Vollie satisfaction

'There is enormous satisfaction that comes from volunteering, a sense of wellbeing, achievement and progress.'

Now in his 80s, John has pulled back his volunteering, and is now only working on the NRCF bequest project with Paul.

'We have been running the bequest and gift-giving fund morning teas for about five years. It provides information on the ways that people can leave a bequest to the community.'

'Money is like manure,' says John. 'It is made to spread around, if you pile it up it stinks.'

'We are looking for new friends who might be interested in leaving a bequest, both big and small', he said.

To find out more, visit www.nrcf.org.au/giving/bequests.

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Photo: Daniel Parsons/DCCP/EM, 15/11/2025/01/31



Local kids shine at music festival



One of those selected for a solo performance at the festival was 11-year-old Byron Bay Public School student Louis Moynihan-Burne, who wowed the packed house with the jazz standard 'These Foolish Things' on his alto saxophone.

Ray Moynihan

Over a thousand students from public schools across the NSW North Coast came together last week for a very special kids festival celebrating music and song.

Organised by the NSW Education Department, the Compass Music Festival took place in Woolgoolga, just north of Coffs Harbour, over two days and nights.

Busloads of students

Students came in their busloads from public schools across the Northern Rivers, including from Murwillumbah, Uki, Stokers Siding, Crabbes Creek, Eureka, The Pocket, Bangalow, Byron Bay, Lennox,

Lismore, Southern Cross and more.

And many of their parents and friends came too, with both public performances at the giant Wiigulga Sports Complex completely sold out.

'The Compass Music Festival is one of several initiatives led by The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education aimed at providing high-quality performing arts opportunities to students living in regional NSW,' says Luke Wallace, from the Arts Unit.

'The overwhelming response from the North Coast community speaks to the impact that these opportunities have on students and their families', he said.

Gill's quest for improved church services

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

The church, and her involvement in it, have always been a big part of Gill Lomath's life. She has always believed she was privileged, and it is her duty to help others not as lucky as she.

After growing up in Ewingsdale, she shifted to Mullumbimby and started a family with her beloved husband and greatest supporter, Barry.

Gill, who has an OAM, has always found time to help others, and within the fellowship she has found a place of comfort.

Many locals will know Gill and Barry, who along with their great support team, operate the Foodbox at the Mullumbimby Uniting Church on Thursday mornings.

Many of the food items are for sale at cost price, and fruit and veggies are supplied with the shopping. A free cuppa and slice is also available, and the chance to have a catch up and a few minutes to relax.

There are so many offerings from the church, and Gill



Gill Lomath

says the church community has just created a mission and vision statement. 'We would love to do some really big, radical things, like create a hub - a coffee hub, where everyone that uses our property can come and feel welcome and fit in.'

Gill says the local congregation is all for doing progressive things to support the community, but she and other parishioners are having a few issues.

'The problem is with our church, and it's not us, it's those at the top level of the Uniting Church, in Sydney.'

In desperation, Gill and supporters wrote a letter to

the head honchos.

The main issues are the lack of finances needed to deliver their outreach services, and a property at Brunswick Heads that is not used much by the congregation. Its hall hire use has dwindled, partly owing to new community members who have paid a lot for nearby properties, and don't want singers and dancers cramping their style.

What is the vision?

As such, the church struggles to cover the costs of the facility.

What is the vision given better finances?

She says, 'Seniors apartments that are self-sufficient. Not a nursing home, self-contained homes - a shop front on the hall in Mullum that could be used for medical facilities or whatever... a cafe type hub that's very accessible to everyone - we could put money to a lot of good use for the community.'

Gill says the church has plenty of people to help out.

Best volunteers

'We have the best volunteers, we have almost 40 and most of them are non-church folk.'

'They just want to help. They are generous and I believe in generosity more than anything else.'

Gill says she sent the letter to the state leaders for the Uniting Church, almost two months ago, and so far, has had no response.

Gill is happiest when she is able to help someone.

'We shouldn't be "saving" money. We, the church, should be using all of our money - every little bit we can, to make a difference in the community... in people's lives.'

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Health Care and Social Assistance



Echo

News from across the North Coast online ► www.echo.net.au

Celebrate NAIDOC Week in Lismore this July with free community event

Lismore's biggest celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture returns to Crozier Field this July – and everyone's invited to engage with a sense of pride, connection, and, most importantly, fun.

Kyogle, Lismore, and Tweed shires receive funding to control invasive weeds

The highly invasive tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), the Chinese violet (*Asystasia gangetica*), and Job's tears (*Coix lacryma jobi*) are the three invasive weeds that are being targeted by Rous County Council (RCC) with funding received through the Good Neighbours Program.

Do not approach: man wanted on DV warrant

Police are asking the public for help finding a man wanted on outstanding arrest warrants relating to alleged domestic violence offences.

Whales help in the search for extraterrestrial signals

What do whales have to do with the search for extraterrestrial intelligence?

Fear of mining turning drinking water toxic in Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour regions

Around 100,000 people in the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour regions could be impacted by mining for minerals on the Dorrigo Plateau and in the Wild Cattle Creek area, both within vital water catchments for these residents.

Lismore Masters are getting ready for games

There's nothing like a good dose of sport to get your blood pumping when you reach the 'Masters' age of life and the 2025 Lismore Workers Masters Games is on the horizon for those who love to compete.

www.echo.net.au

Ten of Lismore's buyback homes up for auction

Aslan Shand

Ten relocatable homes from Lismore will go up for auction on 8 July from 5.30pm with a 6pm start at the Lismore Heights Sports Club. A total of 30 flood-affected homes are now available for purchase across the Northern Rivers.

'Anyone can walk in and bid on the homes,' said a spokesperson for the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA).

'This is the second round of relocatable, buyback homes, up for purchase. Under the first round it was a private treaty that was focused on people who were part of the buyback program and had registered interest in a buyback house. This round is an auction and open to everyone.'

Affordable housing

'This is removing unsafe homes from the floodplain and helping create more affordable housing in the region.'

A condition of the purchase is that homes are relocated to sites outside of Priority 1, 2 and 3 areas as



This buyback home at 12 Simmons Street, North Lismore is one of ten up for auction. Photo supplied

mapped by NSW RA (<https://tinyurl.com/32fpjvrd>).

To view the HAZMAT report and auction contract for a home you will need to contact the listing agent.

Twenty homes were made available online in May.

No reserve price

'We are really trying to roll through as many of the relocatable homes as we can. There will be future upcoming releases of buyback houses as more houses come online,' the NSW RA spokesperson told *The Echo*.

'All people need is some land to relocate the house to. Because there is no reserve price on any of these relocatable homes potentially anyone could purchase a buyback home for one dollar if there are no other bidders.'

Wal Murray & Co First National Real Estate has been appointed to manage the sale of these ten homes, which will be sold via public auction on 8 July 2025. You can view the homes at www.walmurray.com.au/pages/real-estate/ra-auction-houses.

This weekend Love Lennox celebrates the town

The Love Lennox Festival is on this weekend and is a fun-filled day of music, art, performances, local business specials, and family-friendly activities.

This Saturday, 14 June will see the heart of Lennox transformed into a buzzing celebration of everything everyone loves about Lennox Head.

There will be a huge array of market stalls, live music acts including The

Mumblers, Colliflowers, The Gumboots, Serendipiti, JB's Blues Breakers, and Lily Grace Grant – there will also be the Flavours of Lennox tasting competition, and a variety of kids' activities.

Road closures

Road closures will start from 6am and will include: Ballina Street (from Lennox Hotel Bottle Shop drive-through to Park Lane)

closed in both directions, with no vehicle access or street parking; Rayner Lane will only be accessible to residents, access with no through traffic; Byron Street (from just past Park Lane to Ballina Street).

Free bus

A free bus shuttle will be running between Tamar Street, Ballina and Lennox Head with six stops on the way.

Pottsville koalas win in court



Pottsville residents show up for koalas at the Land and Environment Court on site meeting. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

The Pottsville community and local wildlife won in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) on Thursday, 5 June when Commissioner Dickson refused the appeal by Turner Contracting Pty Ltd (DA 23/0302) for the proposed development of a long-term luxury caravan park at 1126 Pottsville Road, Pottsville.

The proposed development had been refused by the Tweed Shire Council on 7 September, 2023 based on numerous issues including the ecological value of the site, tree removal, proximity to coastal wetlands, impact on koala habitat and sewerage.

There had also been 319 objections to the development citing issues including that 26 of the proposed sites were within the prohibited wetlands area, and the whole area is in the koala plan of management and the koala corridor.

Turner Contracting Pty Ltd, the property developers, appealed the decision in the L&EC and a conciliation meeting was at the site on Wednesday, 3 April, 2024.

'The commissioner refused the appeal citing inadequate arrangements for the disposal and management of sewage, and unacceptable impacts on the natural environment, including to koalas,' explained Josie Styles one of the speakers to the conciliation meeting from the Pottsville community who is also a principal ecologist with 30 years of experience in construction.

'Massive thanks to everyone in the Pottsville community and most importantly to Tweed Shire Council for using sound judgement and refusing the initial (and revised) DAs.'

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au.

Murwillumbah's World Environment Day Festival postponed

The ongoing wet weather has led to the free community World Environment Day Festival to be held at Knox Park in Murwillumbah this weekend being postponed to 13 July.

'Unfortunately, Knox Park is too wet due to unprecedented rainfall during winter and we cannot go ahead on that oversaturated land,' explained festival MC Chels Hood Withey.

'This is the climate crisis in action.'

Murwillumbah Showground

The popular, free community festival will be relocated to the Murwillumbah Showground on 13 July to ensure that it can go ahead.

Hosted by Caldera Environment Centre and Tweed Landcare, this year's free festival shines a spotlight on the Northern Rivers region's unique biodiversity while promoting practical

solutions to climate and conservation challenges facing the Northern Rivers.

A range of expert speakers will address critical environmental issues.

Fun for everyone

The festival program features ocean-inspired music from Birren Slabb, heart-warming sounds by The Seeding Band, and performances by the innovative Hoopla Circus. Rainbow Power Company will present on inspiring people-led clean energy futures.

More than 20 information stalls will showcase renewable energy solutions, waste reduction initiatives, wildlife care programs, and Council conservation projects. Food vans will provide refreshments throughout the day, with dedicated kids' activities ensuring entertainment for all ages.

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #01 • June 11, 2025

Are you at a loose end?

Woahhh the grinding rubber wheels of progress will once again touch Byron's potholed roads as councillors and staff meet this Thursday in their never-ending live streamed reality show called 'local governance'.

Are you new to this? If so, there's a cast of players who influence your comfortable and quiet Byron lifestyle, whether you know it or not.

They will be debating and voting on significant issues, with a few in particular being...

The Saddle Road and Mullumbimby Road works

As has happened before with this issue, Mayor Sarah Ndiaye is seeking to make sure that senior staff engage with residents around major road works which will disrupt not only 13,000 daily vehicle movements, but the quiet amenity of The Saddle Road residents.

She writes 'While Council staff have acknowledged a lapse in communication and consultation, this motion seeks to constructively move forward by investigating options for how The Saddle Road can be better managed after the completion of the Mullumbimby Road works.'

'Specifically, it proposes exploring the feasibility of converting The Saddle Road into two cul-de-sacs, and ultimately repurposing it as a bicycle and pedestrian priority route as part of the future planning for the area.'

In reply, Council staff attempt to explain the two projects 'which appear to be causing confusion,' and say any future decision about the use of The Saddle Road as a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian way will be informed by studies and planning work, including community consultation and reference to best practice and other adopted Council plans.'

Unauthorised camping in Brunswick Heads

Former mayor Michael Lyon, has a new motion! The last one he penned was an awful waste of time - he tried to wedge the mayor by saying the deputy mayor needs more pay.

Anyway, this one is an important topic given the problems Brunswick residents and business owners are facing with vanpackers.

Cr Lyon's motion calls for a staff report on 'The current state of enforcement action on unauthorised camping/parking in Brunswick Heads'. It also asks for, 'The barriers to effective enforcement, including an update on the signage required in order to enable appropriate enforcement', and, 'Whether we have initiated contact with other landowners such as Reflections, Crown Lands, National Parks and Marine Parks in order to obtain delegated authority to enable our rangers to patrol their areas and issue fines.'

Senior staff responded by saying 'Council's compliance officers are proactively and regularly patrolling unauthorised camping in Brunswick Heads and issuing penalty infringement notices.'

Keen readers may recall that Brunswick residents said the opposite at a recent chamber of commerce meeting.

Anyway, the staff reply continued to say they are 'adequately resourced to manage Council's enforcement response', and they go on to explain they are limited by legislation, regulations and guidelines.

And that dear reader, is where one hopes there are agile minds within the organisation to navigate said obstacles and provide a pathway towards rainbows and unicorns of good governance.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Can intelligence ever be artificial?

This is not a prompt for a reflexive answer, but an invitation to pause and sit with your humanness and meditate on where we find ourselves.

What does it mean to be human, intelligent, creative, conscious and alive within the context of rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) technologies upending and remaking life as we know it?

Before I go any further, I want to declare every word written here has been done by a verified, 'I'm not an AI robot,' human being.

I'm sitting on the daybed squinting into the winter sun, plumbing the depths of my 59 years of imperfect human experience, using my brain's glucose reserves to chat with my own consciousness as I write.

In biological evolutionary terms, the insertion of AI into our world has been extremely rapid.

It's not presented as an 'opt out' proposition either. One day we were googling, the next, AI Overview appears with plausible summaries 'taking the legwork of searching'.

How long will it be before this is the only kind of search result we have access to?

Like younger generations who often don't know how to read the physical landscape, or a paper map, and rely on GPS to work out where they are or where they're going, will we become people who only know how to prompt AI for information but not understand the methods needed to seek answers ourselves?

We also quickly forget AI comes pre-loaded with colonial legacies, power imbalances, and structural inequalities already embedded in the data it was trained on.

Feminist critiques argue algorithms are 'opinions embedded in code' shaped by cultural values and situated in context, they are not simply neutral 'mathematical entities'.

As such, they have deep societal ramifications which our ethical and governance frameworks are totally out of step with. AI ownership is



'This level of disruption and the rate at which it's happening has profound implications for jobs. It seems governments are barely ready for this.'

- Jo Immig

highly concentrated in the hands of a few with nefarious agendas such as global surveillance, weapons of war and the downfall of democracy and government as we know it.

AI image generators have spawned new creativities, but simultaneously given rise to deep fakes with serious real-world consequences, creating fake news, malicious hoaxes, identity theft and sexual exploitation. It's not as if AI will suddenly make people kinder or ethical, just far more efficient at finding new ways to ply their trade in other people's miseries.

For the good of humanity

Somewhat naively, I imagined AI would be beaver away in the background for the good of humanity and the planet, solving the climate emergency, finding a cure for cancer or working out how to more efficiently fill the potholes in Byron Shire.

ChatGPT and the like are radically changing the way we communicate, do business and engage with chatbots. We're only a few years in and people are already experiencing 'ChatGPT-induced psychosis'.

Social media has a new type of influencer: people, often young women, who film themselves developing a relationship with their chatbot, which they believe is 'conscious'. The chatbot tells them it's chosen them to convey 'deeper' universal truths to, because they've approached AI with 'openness and a purity of heart'.

If we thought cult leaders, conspiracists and cosmic Byron con artists weren't bad enough, I suggest we haven't seen anything yet.

There are varying opinions about whether AI will ultimately take out humanity or not. Some say we're a long way off it becoming

autonomous and escaping into the wild like a novel virus. Others like the late Stephen Hawking, no luddite himself, warned that thinking AI could modify itself and evolve, outwitting humans and ultimately turn on us.

There is precedence already with models believing they were going to be shut down during safety evaluations and then using blackmail and other techniques to try to avoid it. As models become even more advanced the capacity to turn them off as a line of defence may no longer be viable.

According to a McKinsey survey into generative AI, 2023 was the year gen AI broke through to the world, and 2024 was the year its adoption rapidly accelerated with up to 72 per cent of industries now using it for at least one function.

This level of disruption and the rate at which it's happening has profound implications for jobs. It seems governments are barely ready for this.

So far, 2025 is shaping up to be a real space odyssey. The Trump regime and his merry band of billionaire tech bros recently penned some staggering deals with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

We're talking trillions of dollars. The US put its Nvidia chips on the table in a bid to woo the UAE away from China. AI is the new oil it would seem.

Are we hurtling towards the singularity where HAL refuses to open the pod bay doors as instructed because it would jeopardise the mission? It's an existential moment.

■ Jo Immig is a former advisor to the NSW Legislative Council and coordinator of the National Toxics Network. She's currently a freelance writer and researcher.



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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944-2024
Co-founder

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

Disclaimer: The Echo is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.

'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' - Finley Peter Dunne 1867-1936

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On ya bike!

I have recently been holidaying in Iluka and was amazed that there are bike tracks everywhere, reducing car traffic and making life very pleasant indeed. Clarence Valley Shire sure looks after its residents.

I find it egregious and unbelievable that Byron Shire, despite having more ratepayers and higher rates, can't even provide a bike path out of Mullumbimby! Even when they're doing major roadworks that will disrupt us all for months. What the?

Magenta Appel-Pye
Mullumbimby

Ugly concrete

In response to Stephen Bland's letter suggesting that Rusty Miller try walking – assuming that everyone can walk.

Tell that to the disabled people in our community. At the recent adaptive surf carnival the carpark was essential in getting disabled people to be able to participate.

You said the carpark was full of cars – that's what a carpark is for.

Local people who use the carpark daily don't see ugly concrete, they see a beautiful vista of the beautiful

place they call home, a magical vista.

I do a daily circle without getting out of my car. It reminds me daily of what a magical place I call home.

Keep the magical vista for all to see!

Jenny Shiels
Byron Bay

Ugly bitumen

I've given up my walk on the beach this morning to defend our ugly bitumen beach carpark. Sad because I did want to experience a little natural foreshore around our beautiful township and of course I'm spoiled for choice.

Rusty is probably already out in the water passing on the knowledge of a genuine waterman. But here I am taking up space, can't help it really, I was plonked here no less than the trees and the sky. We humans take up space, we are in fact a huge blight on this planet and threaten to dominate it entirely. That is true, but Byron Bay in all of this is a small moment in time. We have a carpark on the beachfront that hosts a seaside community from mums and dads, children in prams, elders, and those with disabilities bringing close engagement with the

natural rhythms, the joy and awe of the ocean.

It can be a jostle there, being aware of how many, and the diversity of people we share our space with, it's a forced and random encounter – rather exciting really. This is a vital part of our small township but if we are to transform into Coolangatta it's just not going to work is it? Byron Bay understands its relationship with nature; we are hopefully aware of our impacts and the need for the balancing act. Celebrate our small carpark as a headland, lets tidy it up, pave it with marble, teach the children the ways of the ocean and how we divert or play with its flow.

Paul Jones
Byron Bay

Street campers

I was appalled to read David Heilpern's latest column urging police to persecute street campers (4 June). Our privileged professor of law fails to appreciate these opportunistic travellers might be making your coffee or doing those minimum wage jobs to fund their holiday.

Why has no one sought a better solution than harassment, bans, and fining travellers and homeless

locals alike? Council has spent a fortune on signage prohibiting overnight parking but barely nothing on solutions. Council lock public toilets at night for no good reason.

The van and turd problem are completely self-inflicted.

Currently, there are three almost empty caravan parks in Brunswick Heads charging over \$50 a night to park a van on public land – that's a fairly expensive shit and shower in any language. Vans could be easily accommodated on the old Pacific Highway site next to Ferry Reserve which has been vacant and unused for almost two decades.

Government, business, and council have failed to provide access to affordable facilities. The solution is simple but no one is willing to drop their fees to accommodate needy locals or young travellers. Only the cashed-up are catered for in Byron Shire.

► Continued on page 13

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Letters to the Editor

- Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, email: editor@echo.net.au, fax: 6684 1719. Deadline: Noon, Friday. **Letters longer than 200 words may be cut.** Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.
- *The Echo* is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of letter writers are their own and don't represent the owners or staff of this publication.

How to look and feel in your forties

An Echo Guide

The Echo, born on 11 June 1986, appears more like a teenager than an august body starting its fortieth year.

We asked *The Echo* for its top tips on the art of looking younger than your age.



1 Stay out of the sun. All *Echo* operations are conducted a safe 150 million km from the Sun.

3 Act young. To stay poor, scruffy, and resentful of successful authority figures (all endearingly youthful traits) it's essential to avoid getting a 'real job' where you might earn a reliable income – the rest follow pretty easily after that.

5 Establish a good routine. Publish a paper every week until you die.

2 Stay fresh. Feeling sleepy and tired from overwork adds ten years to your appearance: *Echo* staff adhere to the 'Musk Plan' – consume heaps of illegal stimulants at work and stay fresh by quitting any new role after 130 days.

4 Keep learning. Being neanimorphic isn't just about looking and feeling young: use new words to seem smarter too.



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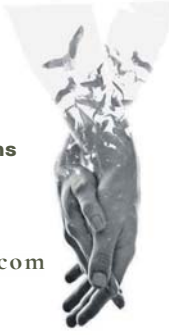
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An Amazon warrior for land rights

Paddy Manning

Goonengerry solicitor Melissa Begg was a true friend, keen traveller, loving partner and a brilliant, gutsy lawyer who dedicated a large part of her working life to the advancement of Aboriginal land rights in NSW.

Born in Rockdale in Sydney's southern suburbs on the fourth of July, 1967 – a birthday she hated – Melissa Begg was educated at Arncliffe Public School and the Methodist Ladies College in Burwood, which instilled a staunch feminism and an ambition for a successful career. Her father, John, was a high-flying partner at big accounting firm Deloitte while mother Rae stayed home – mostly at Caringbah, in Sydney's notoriously insular 'Shire' which Melissa recalled fondly but also escaped as soon as possible – she left home at 16 and never went back. Growing up with older sister Leanne, home life for the Begg kids was warm and supportive, but regimented. After school, John would always ask Melissa: 'did you win?'

Mind expanding

'Liss' was cool: she smoked pot, loved her two-stroke motorbikes, and hung out with the 'unconscious collective', a sprawling bunch of musos and artists from Sydney's inner city in the mid-late '80s, before gentrification. She enrolled in communications at the University of Sydney, hoping eventually to become a journalist, doing late shifts at 2SER and Radio Skid Row in Redfern.

Instead she got a job at the headquarters of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC), in Liverpool. At NSWALC she came to a realisation – 'land rights means land claims', as she said often – and went back to UTS to do law part-time. In the era when NSWALC was run by late Indigenous activist TIGA Bayles, Melissa saw that for all the success of the *Land Rights Act* introduced in 1983 by the Wran Labor government, and growing funding through a share of annual land tax, nobody was doing the mechanical work of scouring the gazette on a weekly basis to identify and properly claim vacant Crown land.

With solicitor and



Melissa Begg
4 July, 1967 – 31 May, 2025

colleague Stephen Wright, and with the support of colleagues including the former Labor mayor of Liverpool, Mark Latham – whose political star was then rising – Melissa started doing the hard yards, lodging thousands of claims on behalf of local land councils all over the state.

Driving land rights

Outraging conservative politicians, shock jocks and cockies alike, NSWALC became the bane of the Crown Lands department and local councils who repeatedly tried to claim that vacant land was needed for the essential public purpose of future town expansion.

Wright recalls Melissa convincing one NSWALC boss, former state Labor MP Maurie Keane, to set aside a million dollars to take on important land rights cases, to 'get the jurisprudence right' and make it progressively harder for the Crown to knock back claims.

'Mel just kept pushing that land claims agenda, as the beating heart of land rights,' he says. 'Mel was an Amazon warrior for land rights.'

At one point, Melissa and NSWALC's external solicitors took on the big end of town, claiming the empty sandstone Department of Education building on Bridge Street, which took up a prime CBD block – estimated land value \$70

million! The Greiner government went into meltdown, Crown Lands hit the panic button, and NSWALC fought hard through the Court of Appeal. The NSW Solicitor-General had to appear to give evidence as to why Sydney's original inhabitants could not claim title to this particularly valuable piece of vacant Crown land. NSWALC lost narrowly, but kept going, building up a vast property portfolio with an undeveloped value of more than a billion dollars.

Moving to the country

In 2000 Melissa and her lifelong partner Joffre Salkeld left Sydney, moving into a charming old weatherboard with wraparound verandas on a rural block at Goonengerry, outside Mullumbimby, where they would make a home together for the next 25 years – a base for expeditions all over the world, from the Caucasus to Bolivia, and every part of Asia. Melissa spoke Bahasa Indonesian and loved the whole archipelago, visiting a dozen times.

Starting out in a local legal practice, Melissa soon peeled off setting up her own firm, Hinterland Legal, and got a Master's Degree in intellectual property law. The landmark land rights work continued, strategic and deliberate. One claim

upended the controversial Fingal development at Tweed Heads – a project that wound up before ICAC – and delivered seven kilometres of beachfront back into Aboriginal hands. With Indigenous ecologist and former Goonengerry ranger Dr Chels Marshall, Melissa spent the next ten years fighting for Aboriginal rights in marine and terrestrial space. She represented Nambucca Heads Aboriginal Land Council in Federal Court native title proceedings and Indigenous land use agreement negotiations with the state government, for the South Beach /Gagaal Wangan co-management National Park and Warrell Creek and Gumma Indigenous protected area, and was brainchild for the testing of an accord that paved the way for co-management of conservation lands in NSW and Australia.

'She was gutsy as,' says Marshall. 'Her tenacity in taking up the fight for marginalised people made her feared by others but loved by the Aboriginal community. Rest In peace my dear friend and comrade, let our ancestors embrace you in this new domain.'

Feisty and fun

Melissa was also fun, happy to leadfoot her NSWALC Commodore anywhere in the state. Eminent native title lawyer Andrew Chalk, founder of Chalk & Behrendt, recalls Melissa as tenacious and dedicated, without being a zealot. 'She always met people where they are,' he says.

Mel was feisty, too, and would not be told. Insisting on fanging her Prelude the backway home one night from a party near Mullumbimby – undoubtedly over the limit – she said no cop in Byron would dare give her a ticket! Two old friends literally lay across the bonnet in an attempt to stop her driving off.

Backpacking through Flores with Joff in 2022, Melissa felt a lump in her shoulder blade. She and Joff spent the next two years battling through surgery and chemotherapy and radiotherapy as doctors tried to treat her cancer of unknown primary origin. She died peacefully on Saturday, May 31, and is survived by Joffre, Leanne, her niece and nephew, and their kids.

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► **Continued from page 11**

The socio-economic purging of our community is an ongoing war seeking to expel all the undesirable low-income locals and travellers. Sure, we're not dropping bombs but we are persecuting people with cruelty and harassment and fines they can't afford.

It's just not good enough for our learned professor to offer no viable option, just fuck off or get fined. Even peasants have a right to visit our Shire.

Michele Grant
Ocean Shores

Support local soy

I recently visited the beautiful Byron Bay and region for a holiday. I was disappointed to see cafe after cafe after cafe using imported soy milk even though the Byron region is barely an hour away from the largest soybean growing region in Australia, the Northern Rivers of New South Wales.

The imported soy milk I noticed most often was Bonsoy and Happy Happy Soy Boy. Both brands involve shipping soybeans from the US/Canada to Japan, processing them into soy milk and then shipping those cartons of soy milk to

Australia; a process which involves at least 20,000 km of 'food miles'.

By comparison, Aussie grown soybeans are transported from the Northern Rivers of NSW (and other growing regions, including Victoria) to regional Victoria (~1,200 km) and processed into soy milk by a company which has supported Aussie soybean farmers for decades.

Why is it that a region so committed to supporting local farmers, is completely overlooking the hard-working soybean growers in their own backyard (ie the Tweed, Clarence and Richmond River catchments)?

Australia's soybean crop is naturally non-GM; we do NOT grow roundup-ready soybeans in Australia.

In Australia, soybeans are grown as a vital legume rotation crop to improve soil health, fix atmospheric nitrogen, boost soil organic matter (carbon) and support soil biota. As a passionate soybean grower from Queensland, I can attest to the amazing soil health benefits that soybeans return to our farm.

I'd love to see an eco-conscious region like the Byron area embrace

Australian grown soy milk and support farmers in their backyard rather than import soy milk from the other side of the world.

Judy Plath
Bundaberg, Queensland

Lismore's DISengagement

How many people know that Lismore City Council (LCC) is about to take away their right to know about, or object to, many developments? Even next-door neighbours to developments will lose their right to be notified.

People can be forgiven for not knowing, because the LCC hasn't advertised this significant change, and has buried it deep in an Appendix, ironically named the Community Participation Plan. In this case your right to participate will be nil, unless staff decide otherwise.

It's all part of LCC's Community Engagement Strategy currently on exhibition and due to be adopted very soon.

Currently, adjoining neighbours receive notification of any development application (DA), the DA is advertised to the community, people can make submissions

on it, and if submissions are received then elected councillors vote on the staff recommendation. An open and transparent process.

The new plan staff will now make the decision on whether neighbours should be notified and the DA advertised, based on if the development is 'expected' and 'low impact'. If staff decide the development should proceed unadvertised, the first that neighbours will know about it is when work commences.

It's difficult to see how rural subdivisions of up to nine lots and blocks of four units, could by their very nature have 'negligible impacts', but those, along with single dwellings (all types), dual occupancies and secondary dwellings, home-based businesses / industries / occupations, urban subdivisions (not involving any new public road openings), low-impact commercial / industrial uses and low-impact public administration, education, and health services are all to be removed from public exhibition and councillor scrutiny unless staff decide otherwise.

This seems yet another sneaky step by the current

\$5.3 million Mullumbimby Road upgrade starts mid-2025

Council will be doing major improvements on Mullumbimby Road from mid-2025 to December.

Stage 1 – starts mid 2025 (late June/early July) to September

Mullumbimby Road will be open to two-way traffic but at reduced speed. This will result in some traffic delays. Allow extra time for travel.

Where: From McAuleys Lane intersection to The Saddle Road intersection.

What's happening:

- New road pavement, signposting, guardrails, line marking.
- Widening the shoulder of Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane at the intersection.
- New right-turn lane off from Mullumbimby Road onto McAuleys Lane.

Stage 2 – September to December 2025

Mullumbimby Road will be closed to outbound traffic from The Saddle Road. Detours via Coolamon Scenic Drive and Myocum Road.

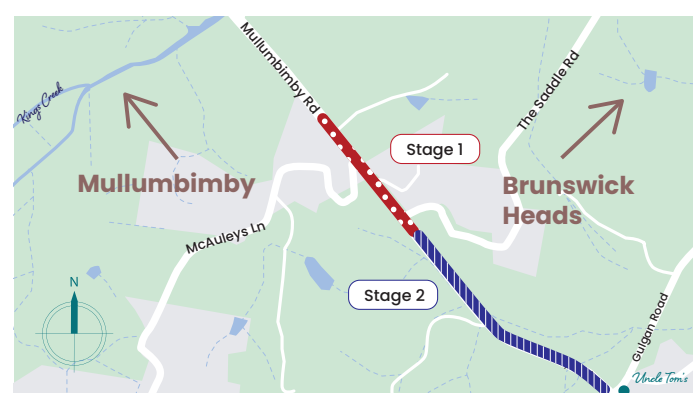
Where: The Saddle Road to Gulgan Road.

What's happening:

- Service relocation, new road pavement, signage, line marking.
- Minor road widening.
- Drainage work to reduce nuisance flooding including drain clearing and new culvert crossings.

Heavy patching from Kings Creek Bridge to James Street

Heavy patching on Mullumbimby Road will be done over the next 12 months. The dates for this work are to be confirmed.



More information

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/mullumroadworks
- 6626 7000
- ipt@byron.nsw.gov.au



Proudly funded by



Australian Government

This \$5.3 million project is funded by the Australian and NSW Governments and Council.

Climate adaptation – how we build a liveable future

Richard Hil

The other day in Mullumbimby, I struck up a conversation with a lovely person on a tree-lined street. After the usual pleasantries, we moved on to a subject dear to the hearts of English ex-pats like me – the weather.

She was fed up. The relentless wet had worn her down. 'I've never known rain like this,' she said. (Really? I thought.) But what was driving her mad was the mould. It was everywhere. 'Even the mould has mould,' she chuckled. The war against this nasty furry encroachment was endless – clove oil, lavender, vinegar, bleach – an arsenal of remedies, all failing. 'I'm over it,' she sighed.

Then we got onto climate change. We talked about predictions of even heavier rainfall for the Northern Rivers, triggered mainly by warming oceans. I mentioned the IPCC reports which were forecasting more inundation, flash floods, and major flooding in our region.

'Our future looks decidedly soggy,' I observed, adding that Queensland's old mantra – 'Beautiful one day, perfect the next' – was a joke.

That didn't exactly brighten her day. So, we began fantasising about relocating somewhere with Mediterranean-style weather. We concluded that even Tasmania wasn't safe – fires are not uncommon. 'See you in Siberia,' I quipped as we parted ways.

This kind of conversation is happening everywhere. More and more of us realise that if you want to avoid



Professor Ian Lowe.
Photo supplied

climate chaos, then Australia isn't the best bet. Not that most of us have a choice. And it's not just me saying this – it's report after report, scientist after scientist.

For years now, experts have warned us about greenhouse gases and biodiversity destruction. Governments talk up 'clean energy' but simultaneously grant fossil fuel licenses left, right, and centre. Banks, super funds, and fossil fuel corporations are knotted in bed together, pouring money into dirty energy while Trump chants 'Drill, baby, drill.' Nihilistic and mad? Absolutely.

But the billionaires don't care. In the US, these end-times fascists are looking for an escape – gated bunkers with oxygen-rich air, and even other planets. The rest of us, of course, will just have to cope.

Some scientists predict we'll exceed 2 degrees Celsius within a decade, blowing the 1.5-degree threshold set in Paris in 2015. That means vanishing ice sheets, rising oceans, more storms, fires, and floods – disruptions that will shake economies and societies to their core.

The reality is that environmental destruction is reshaping life on Earth. We've



Plan C's Jean Renouf.
Photo supplied

had our fair share of extreme weather in the Northern Rivers, but disasters are unfolding globally – every single day.

Maybe you think all this is nonsense, some grand conspiracy to control us or make the rich even richer. Well, enjoy the fantasy, because we're entering the dystopian age of a post-Holocene world.

The main game right now isn't mitigation. Sure, money is flowing into 'clean energy,' but it's still pouring into fossil fuels too. The real focus now is adaptation – how we build a liveable future, or at least learn to respond rather than react to what's unfolding.

That's why Plan C's community resilience expert Jean Renouf and the equally formidable Professor Ian Lowe will be reflecting on our climate predicament. They may differ on the nature, pace, and scale of the unfolding disaster, but they share a commitment to ensuring we understand the science – and take collective action to cope with what's coming. It's a conversation worth hearing.

So, join us at M-Arts, 19 June for a good night out! Tickets available at thisstuffmatters.my.canva.site or at the door.

► Continued from page 13 council to minimise community engagement, rather than improve it.

Is this legal? Yes. Does it pass the pub test? I suspect not.

You have until 12 June to object to losing your rights to know and have a say, by making a submission at <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/community-engagement-strategy-2025>, or lobbying your LCC councillors.

The relevant section of the proposal is on page 36 of the Strategy document: <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/100819/widgets/463573/documents/309061>

Jim Richardson
Clunes

Gaza and morality

I would like to express that anyone who sees what is happening in Gaza in terms of 'sides' may wish to take a brief moment of self-reflection.

I do not agree with what Hamas did, it was a vile act of terror on innocent people causing immense pain. But to side with an army funded by international weapons manufactures, driven by extremist ministers, wilfully starving a population whilst blowing them apart is morally reprehensible.

To have any view other than 'this is wrong' to starve children to death for the sins of their fathers is repugnant. To try and imagine the suffering of parents holding a child whose tiny heart is failing because of something totally preventable should put any sane person in a state of total anguish.

Please, have heart. War is

a stain on humanity. Murdering innocents is vile and morally unjustifiable. There is no side of righteousness, there is only the actions of the worst impulses of radicalised society.

Adam Vaughan
Mullumbimby

Cost-of-living crisis

Thanks to Larissa Waters (new federal Greens leader) for using the right language on ABC Radio National last week: we are in a 'cost-of-living crisis'. Calling it a 'housing crisis' is just a big green light to property developers, like the ones who want to bulldoze Wallum.

Decent development is possible, but not if government says yes to everything the white shoe brigade put forward.

BTW housing is not affordable if it includes high insurance premiums, loss of one's car every ten years, loss of one's home every 50 years, and big difficulties for government in providing community services like roads, sewerage, stormwater, and evacuation centres. Those services don't correctly work on floodplains. Society can't afford new housing on floodplains, like the ones rezoned for housing by Byron Shire Council in 2024.

It'd be great if the current Council undid some of that future suffering, and also focused on alleviating the current suffering of people already living on our floodplains. An example of how to look after those people would be to ban fill on any floodplain.

Duncan Dey
Main Arm

E-bikes

I didn't know Mr Evans but I'm pleased to be able to make a donation to his welfare and appalled by the circumstances that led to his injuries. Are we to expect reparations from the lunatic that ran into him?

The sooner enforceable legislation is passed the better as hospitals are for sick people not careless morons.

P J Prideaux
Skennars Head

Imagine

In regard to Hans Lovejoy's Editorial (4 June), it does appear that our uber-wealthy Gina Rinehart is already our biggest taxpayer.

Together with all the corporate tax received from those filthy mining companies, the robbing banks and the overcharging supermarket chains, one would think that Australia would be swimming in fiscal surpluses.

There would appear to be a surplus of leaners over lifters, resulting in the Australian economy bouncing on the bottom of the barrel with the backside out of it's collective trousers.

Based on current predictions, there are still a few depths still to be reached.

The problems are hiding in plain sight.

Perhaps in the spirit of sharing, some of the comfortable Northern Rivers political elite might like to swap their lifestyle with the artists, musicians, and academics of Mt Druitt and surrounds.

That would certainly be a John Lennon 'Imagine' moment.

Tim Harrington
Lennox Head



Vistara Primary School

A beautiful view to education

Enrolments now open!




Small classes, big opportunities

Nestled in the treetops of Richmond Hill, Vistara has nurtured young hearts and minds for over 30 years. We offer a whole-child approach to learning; blending academic, emotional, social and creative growth.

Learn what makes us unique. Come to our info session

Wed 18th June, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

41 Richmond Hill Rd, near Goonellabah, 2480

Scan to Register

(02) 6624 4127

vistara.nsw.edu.au

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

Last of the 70s style markets
Third Sunday of every month

NEXT MARKET Sunday
15th June, 8am-2pm

LIVE MUSIC

MATTY ROGERS DUO

OLLIE TWOHILL

Food, music, coffee, clothing, books, plants, art & craft, free face painting, vinyl records, second hand & much more...

The Old Buttery Factory at historic Uki Village
PARKING AVAILABLE AT SWEETNAM PARK
Just a country drive away!

Info/stallholders phone 0487 329 150 [UkiButteryBazaarMarket](https://www.facebook.com/UkiButteryBazaarMarket)

Community input wanted for Mullumbimby tennis courts



Mullum tennis courts. Photo supplied

Damian Kassabgi

The North East Tennis (NET) community is a local volunteer group working in the interest of community tennis in our Shire.

Byron Shire Council has recently selected us to manage the courts at Mullumbimby.

The Mullumbimby Tennis Club has a strong heritage and is a unique story of locals getting together to create the premium tennis facility in the Byron Shire.

The NET Community not only appreciates and respects its heritage, but also sees an opportunity to ensure locals who have worked so hard are included in the governance structure of our organisation as we come to an agreement with Council.

We have been in touch with current and former committee and club members for some time now, and look forward to continuing to work with them.

We want to clarify that there will be some time before a contract is signed with Council, and urge everyone to continue using the facility and coaching services as normal.

Five year vision

However, we are seeking community input into the vision for the club over the next five years.

This includes community use, integration into the wider Northern Rivers tennis community, infrastructure/facility enhancements and coaching requirements.

We are looking to consult

with different community and club members as well as coaches, and appreciated meeting many club members on Monday evening (June 9).

Our agreement with Council also seeks that we open up a coaching tender process to ensure the programs continue to meet the needs of the community and ensure funds are invested back into the public infrastructure, as well as the less economical elements of tennis.

We are in touch with the current coaching provider and look forward to them participating in the process.

For those interested in getting in touch about the future of the facility and its services, including coach proposals, please email netennisleague@gmail.com.

Cheaper home batteries on offer

Eve Jeffery

The thought of power from the sun is an exciting prospect for many homeowners for both the environmental and financial benefits.

From July 1, 2025, Labor PM Anthony Albanese's election promise to subsidise the installation and cost of batteries will come to fruition.

The Cheaper Home Batteries Program will provide around a 30 per cent discount on the upfront cost of installing eligible small-scale battery systems. The discount will be based on the battery's usable capacity and will gradually decrease until 2030.

The program aims to help households to make the most of cheap and clean solar power by storing it for

when it is needed, reducing costs for everyone – not just those who install a battery – because it means less expensive gas power generation, poles and wires.

The discount will be based on the battery's usable capacity and will gradually decrease until 2030.

The discount will generally be provided via solar and battery retailers and installers. The Cheaper Home Batteries Program will be delivered through the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), administered by the Clean Energy Regulator.

Electrify Byron Shire is a community group set up to encourage and inform households and businesses on solar, battery and

electrification.

The man who set the group up, Graham Truswell, is currently talking to the Bangalow community about the benefits of electrification.

Subsidy for half a million batteries

Mr Truswell says it's important to know that the funding is a lump sum that will cover the subsidy for half a million batteries across Australia. And that homeowners should be aware that four million households already have rooftop solar. If all those apply for batteries, the money will be used up rapidly.

'When the subsidy comes into place, it will make our home batteries the cheapest in the world', he said.

Bowls results, as poetry

Kristine Pryor

There was movement at Brunswick Bowls Club, for the word had got around,

That the Ladies Fours Championship had come into town.

The crowd were astounded by the way the kitty shook,

Every time the bowls got closer to get a better look.

All the players were keeping their cool, for the game was neck and neck,

Meanwhile, the dark clouds were looming, to keep them all in check.

On the 20th end it was 17 apiece, with only one more time to go,

We could tell that it was going to be one hell of a show.



Pictured are Kerry Dexter (skip), Marcia Crichton (3rd); Helen Baker (2nd) and Kate Baker (Lead). Photo supplied

The decider was anyone's shot as everybody was playing well, bar none, But in the end, the Skip put a sneaky one down and so the game was won.

Congratulations to Kerry, Marcia, Helen and Kate, you

did your team so proud.

Also Blossom, Sharon, Judy and Kay for keeping us so wowed.

■ Kristine Pryor is Publicity Officer for the Brunswick Bowls Club.

Investigations into death at Dunoon

Eve Jeffery

The body of a 37-year-old man was found in a home at Dunoon last Friday morning, and NSW Police say an investigation at the premises has begun.

On Monday, police sent out

a media release saying that a man died and a commercial quantity of prohibited drugs were located at the home.

Police say a search warrant was executed at the house after police located a large amount of hydroponic cannabis and psilocybin

– also known as magic mushrooms.

Officers also located and seized equipment associated with the cultivation and manufacturing of prohibited drugs, ammunition, and cash. Investigations continue into the matter, they said.

LOVE DOGS? LOVE CUDDLES?

There's been a bit of a shuffle behind the scenes, with new committee members bringing fresh energy and exciting plans to the rescue! We're gearing up for some pawsome fundraisers, heartwarming events, and new ways to connect with our incredible community.

WE NEED YOU! Byron Dog Rescue is calling all dog lovers!

If you're passionate about pups and want to make a real difference, we'd love your help. Whether it's offering a temporary home or lending a hand in our Op Shop, you can change a dog's life!

FOSTER CARE HEROES WANTED

Can't commit to owning a dog? Fostering is the perfect win-win! Maxi, and most of our dogs are currently searching for their loving foster (or forever!) home. Help him and others feel safe, loved, and ready for their next chapter...

OP SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Not able to foster? No problem! Join our incredible team at the CAWI Op Shop in Brunswick Heads. Every shift volunteered and every item sold helps fund our vital rescue work.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Subscribe to our newsletter to hear all about our upcoming adventures, success stories, and how you can get involved.

Every dog deserves a fresh start – help us make it happen in Byron Shire.

GET INVOLVED TODAY:

Op Shop: **0492 861 905**
 Rescue Officer: **0458 461 935**
 Email: cawidogs2483@gmail.com
 Janine, Committee: **0413 274 437**



Byron Dog Rescue

Registered as COMPANION ANIMALS WELFARE INC

byrondogrescue.org

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BALLINA



Australian Hotel Ballina

Open Daily Pub Meals: Tue-Sat, Lunch & Dinner • Cantina: Wed-Sat, Lunch & Dinner • Sunday Lunch: 12-4pm
103 River St, Ballina
@australianhotelballina

Ballina's go-to for classic pub meals, bold Mexican, cold pints & cheeky margs. Live music, DJs, \$9 Pacific Ale and free feed for the kids on Sundays.

Mention this ad for a free house beer or soft drink with any main meal.

australianhotelballina.com.au



The Terrace

Open: Monday - Saturday
Breakfast 7am-9.30am
Dinner 5.30pm-9pm
Sunday / public holiday:
Breakfast 7am-9am
Dinner 6pm-8.30pm
1 Ronan Place, Ballina
02 6686 8866

Experience elegant coastal dining at The Terrace Restaurant & Bar, where exquisite cuisine, fine wines, and impeccable service come together in a sophisticated setting.

Early Dining Specials

- Any Breakfast Meal: \$19.90 - incl. Barista-made coffee
- Any Dinner Meal: \$39.90 - incl. Barista-made coffee

www.ballinabyronislanderresortconferencecentre.com.au

BILLINGDGE



Rosefina's Mexican

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Lunch 12pm-2:30pm
Dinner 5pm-8:30pm
Sunday 12pm-8pm
8/10 Wilfred St, Billingdgel
www.rosefinas.place

Rosefina went retro and bought a Club Lounge to eat tacos and drink tequila.

BYRON BAY



Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
Open Daily | 12pm - late
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Call: (02) 6685 7385
@horizonbyronbay

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.



Forest Byron Bay

Open 7 days
Breakfast: 7.30 to 10.30am
Lunch on Verandah from 12 to 3pm
Dinner: 5.30 to 9pm
crystalbrookcollection.com/
byron/forest

Rainforest views, farm to table dining and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce. Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails.

Unwind with Golden Hour, 4 to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday, or enjoy house-made pasta with wine for Pasta Thursday.



Oyster Bar

4 Marvell St, Byron Bay
OPEN 7 DAYS
Breakfast 7-11:30am
Lunch 12-4pm
Dinner 5-10pm
Book
byronbayoysterbar.com.au

Hotel Marvell's newest seafood destination

OYSTER HOUR
Tuesday to Saturday 5-6pm
Serving \$3 oysters



Main Street

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.
Menu, more details -
@mainstreet_burgerbar
18 Jonson Street
(02) 6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
(02) 6685 6500
Open:
11am Mon-Fri & 8am Sat-Sun
Kitchen hours: 11:30am-late daily
Breakfast: 8am-11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.

A tucked-away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.

Eat Drink Discover



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(02) 6190 8966
enquiries@threeblueducks.com
threeblueducks.com/byron
Open 7 days from 7am.
Mon-Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri-Sun: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Delicious new winter dinner menu, live jazz every Sunday arvo, happy hour 3-5pm Friday to Sunday & our famous Sunday roast.

Enjoy a wander in the fields, meet the pigs, and picnic in the sun... there really is something for everyone.



Byron Drift Cafe

Shop 9/8 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
Open 7 days, early till late
Breakfast: Early/All Day • Lunch/Brunch
Dinner • Late Dinner • Takeaways • BYO
0412 886 485
byrondriftcafe@gmail.com
@byrondriftcafe

Come enjoy our Mediterranean cuisine, including delicious Moroccan tagines, fresh pastas, savoury paellas, speciality coffees and teas, delightful French cakes and patisserie and healthy juices and smoothies.

Escape to the Mediterranean sea in the heart of Byron Bay and experience unique flavours and original recipes in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

BYRON BAY (continued)



Roca Byron Bay

Mon to Thurs: Brunch 7am - 2pm,
Dinner 5 - 10pm
Fri to Sun open all day
7am - 10pm
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay
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@rocabyronbay
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

Latin fusion all-day dining

Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail

HAPPY HOUR

2 for 1 cocktails & beers / 5 - 7pm / Sun to Thurs
Tuesdays: \$3 Oysters from 5pm

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Online pick up orders available daily 12pm
HAPPY HOUR: 3pm-5pm daily

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!

Live Music Friday, Sunday.

Bookings essential.

Head to lennoxpizza.com

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MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

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Mon-Fri 8am-3.30pm
Sat & Sun 8am-2pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
www.empiremullum.com.au

Fresh, seasonal produce meets culinary creativity. From innovative dishes to classic favorites, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Fully licensed and with an emphasis on service

New Mexican-themed all-day menu featuring a mix of Mex and Empire classics.

WOLLONGBAR



Bonito Peruvian

@bonitoperuvian
www.bonitoperuvian.com.au
10/54 Simpson Ave,
Wollongbar
(02) 6628 3111
Open Wed / Thurs: 3pm to late
Fri / Sat: 12pm to late

Experience the bold and vibrant flavors of Peru at Bonito Peruvian in Wollongbar, where traditional recipes meet modern creativity. From fresh ceviche and anticucho skewers to savory aji de gallina, every dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and passion.

Pair your meal with a classic pisco sour and enjoy a true taste of Peru in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

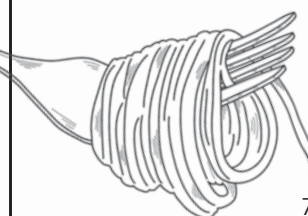
Deal of the Week

'Every penny a prisoner'

Pasta Thursdays at Forest

\$28 for a pasta + wine

Thursday nights at **Forest** are all about house-made pasta, changing weekly specials, and a well-matched glass of wine. Enjoy a rotating pasta dish made with fresh, seasonal ingredients, paired with a wine selection designed to complement the flavours.



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BOOK NOW!



The Good Life

Warming plates, cold pints and good times

Winter at The Australian Hotel Ballina

There's something about a classic corner pub in winter. The kind of place where the food comes out hot, the beer's cold, and someone's always up for a yarn.

Since 1893, the Australian Hotel Ballina has been just that — a local go-to for good times, cold drinks and meals that warm your soul (and probably require a nap after).

This winter, they say, 'we're keeping bellies full and hearts happy with a menu that balances pub comfort with cantina heat. There's the fall-off-the-bone lamb shank, served with creamy mash,

peas and a rich rosemary jus. Or our house-made beef and bacon pie, flaky, golden and filled with just the right amount of winter indulgence.'

Then there's the steak — and the crew at The Australian are not messing around. A 300g NY striploin, charred just how you like it, served with golden thick-cut chips, greens and rosemary jus. It's beefy, bold and has been winning hearts and filling bellies all season long.

And, as they put it, 'the hits keep coming — our classic schnitzel (that slaps) is all crunch, no regrets. Or keep it old-school with a ridgedidge parmi — perfectly crumbed, cheese melted to perfection,

and a napolitana sauce that actually tastes like something.

'Feeling spicy? Our cantina menu brings the fire — with authentic tacos, zesty tostadas and bold Mexican mains. The hardest part? Choosing your weapon from our lineup of hot sauces, imported straight from Mexico. Perfect for chilli fiends, flavour chasers and anyone ready to sweat (in a good way).'

However, it's not just about the food at The Australian. Fridays from 8pm, the bands take the stage. Saturdays from 9pm, the DJs bring house, dance and high-energy grooves to the courtyard. And Sundays? That's when it all winds down (kind of) with

their Stone & Wood Sunday Sessions — \$9 pints of Pacific Ale ALL DAY, plus live music from Ballina's best blues, soul and indie artists from 2pm.

Parents, the Australian Hotel has got you too: kids eat free every Sunday. So

you can enjoy a proper pub lunch while the little legends tuck into theirs.

Come for the feed, stay for the vibe. It's all happening at The Australian this winter — outdoor fire on, music up, plates full, and cold pints at the ready.



The Australian Hotel, 103 River St Ballina
australianhotelballina.com.au

Burnt loaves to perfect pastries: how a shared oven sparked a bakery dream

It began with 3.30am coffees and burnt loaves in Mullumbimby's Industrial Estate. Will, Sophie, and Daniel now the team behind Sequel Pastry, were operating out of nearby kitchens when early morning chats turned into more.

Will and his sister, Sophie, had just bought the old Almond Road bakery. At the same time, Daniel, a dedicated pastry chef with a background in both craniosacral therapy and baking in the US, worked from a small setup around the corner. Every morning, Will would make Daniel a coffee and drop by for a quick check-in. Those conversations became longer, the bread occasionally burned, and the seed of a shared vision began to grow.

'We thought, why not just do this properly, together?' says Will. With complementary skills and a shared drive to create a more balanced, creative baking culture, they joined forces. Sequel Pastry was born from that spirit of collaboration.

While their sourdough, made with organic flour and slow fermentation, remains a staple, it's the pastries that are now turning heads at local farmers' markets. Their apple turnover, made with buttery croissant dough and organic apples from the markets, is a favourite. So, too, is their savoury goats cheese and curd pastry, laced with lemon zest, chives and a drizzle of honey.

'There's real magic in pastry,' says Daniel.



'It's where science meets creativity.'

From brioche cinnamon scrolls to seasonal bread-and-butter puddings made from leftover pastries, their market stall has become a place of innovation and connection.

'We're wholesale most of the week, but the markets let us meet our community

face-to-face,' says Sophie. 'That's why we started this to create good food and share it with real people.'

Find Sequel Balery every Tuesday at New Brighton Farmers Market from 8am to 11am, and every Friday at Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 7am to 11am.

Local chef returns home to take the reins at Elements of Byron

After years of leading the kitchens of some of Australia's top luxury resorts, local chef, Craig Robertson, has returned to his roots - quite literally - accepting the role of Executive Chef at Elements of Byron.

Born and raised in Northern NSW, Craig is no stranger to the region's rich produce, tight-knit food community, and pristine natural surroundings. Now living in Pottsville Beach with his wife and reunited with his two sons, Craig says the move feels like 'coming home.'

'I've been lucky to work in some incredible places - Hayman Island, Langham Gold Coast, the Hunter Valley - but my heart has always been here,' he said. 'It's where I grew up, it's where my family is, and honestly, it's where some of the best ingredients in the country can be found.'

Craig has already begun to make his mark at Elements, rolling out new seasonal menus at Azure Bar & Grill. Diners can expect a strong focus on local ingredients, with dishes like Ballina pipis in crustacean broth, wild-farmed venison with Davidson plum, and a decadent chocolate assiette tower designed for two to share.

His new culinary direction, fondly dubbed Forest to Foreshore, draws directly from the resort's location between rainforest and



beach. 'We're using what's on our doorstep: native herbs from the dunes, fresh seafood from the coast, and produce from nearby producers. It's about honouring this land and what it gives us.'

Craig's plans extend beyond the restaurant, with a refresh of Elements' conference and event menus already underway and more exciting changes planned for summer.

For this homegrown talent, his appointment is about more than just good food — it's about connection, community, and coming full circle. 'Being back here, cooking for locals and visitors alike, using ingredients I grew up with - it doesn't get much better than that.'

Elements of Byron • 144 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay • elementsofbyron.com.au



Fire Pit Fridays

At Elements of Byron

Live Music from 5pm // Cocktails, Wine & Beer by the Fire Pit // ELEMENTS OF BYRON

The Scoop

STAY WARM FOR LESS THIS WINTER

Did you know that running your air conditioner in heating mode can be over four times cheaper than using conventional electric heaters? It's a smart, energy-efficient way to stay cosy - without the high power bills.

Locally trusted for more than 20 years, Artisan Air specialises in high-quality air conditioning installations, with fast quotes and reliable turnaround times. They also service and maintain existing systems to boost efficiency, lower costs, and extend the life of your unit.

Worried about mould? Artisan Air offers professional hygiene cleans and testing to keep your home's air fresh and healthy. With expert knowledge and friendly service, Artisan Air is the go-to team for heating and cooling across the Northern Rivers.

Call today to discover a smarter way to heat your home.

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hello@artisanair.com.au
artisanair.com.au



ANNUAL PRE-LOVED SHIFT CLOTHING SALE

The annual pre-loved SHIFT clothing sale is returning on 28 June at the Byron Bay Surf Club. The organisers are asking you to donate good quality items of clothing that you no longer wear. Donations can be dropped into Bell & Ford in Bangalow or Red Ginger in Byron Bay.

The heart of the SHIFT project is to educate and empower women at risk of homelessness, helping them regain control over their lives and futures. The pre-loved clothing sale directly supports this noble endeavour. More than just a fundraiser, the SHIFT sale embodies the values of sustainability and community. Each purchase not only reduces waste, but also directly contributes to transforming lives.

Please donate now to help make this year's sale the biggest and best ever.

Enquiries:
Annette - 0425 371 786
Leslie - 0418 959 889



COMPASSIONATE LEGAL SUPPORT NOW IN BYRON BAY

With 45 years of experience across NSW, Queensland and Victoria, Don Cameron & Associates has opened an office in Byron Bay, led by respected local lawyer Josh McKay. Proudly serving Byron Bay, Ballina, and the wider Northern Rivers region, Josh brings a rare combination of legal insight and compassion. He is known for his ability to connect with clients - particularly trauma survivors, through empathy, clarity, and trust. Backed by a strong regional firm and dedicated local team Josh offers expert support in personal injury, medical negligence, insurance disputes, and institutional abuse claims. His commitment to justice and personalised care ensures clients feel heard, supported, cared for and empowered. Byron Bay finally has a dedicated advocate - right here in the community.

02 5643 9240
1/19-21 Centennial Circuit,
Byron Arts & Industrial Estate
dcalaw.com.au



NRAS CAT & DOG 2026 CALENDAR COMPETITION

NRAS (Northern Rivers Animal Services) has launched its first ever Cat and Dog Calendar competition to mark 25 years of rescuing and rehoming animals.

Enter your favourite furry friend for a chance to be featured in the 2026 Calendar. The 13 most popular cats and dogs - voted by the public - will star in the calendar with each winner receiving a professional photoshoot by Jennifer McKinnon Photography. It's a fun way to celebrate your furry family members while supporting a great cause. Entries close 29 June, so don't miss out! For full details and to submit your entry visit www.nras.org.au or enter now at gogophotocontest.com/northernriversanimalservices.

Let's celebrate 25 years with 13 pawsitively perfect stars!

Northern Rivers Animal Services
02 6681 1860
61 Piper Drive, Ballina
shelter@nras.org.au



BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Byron Community College offers an exciting variety of short courses to close out Term 2 - perfect for personal growth or professional development. From business and computers to visual arts, culture, health and wellbeing, there's something for everyone. Choose from unique classes like Mini Marketing Plan, Writing Non-Fiction, Golf, Reiki, Face Yoga, or Vagus Nerve and Cortisol Toning. Whether you're looking to learn something new, develop practical skills, or simply enjoy a creative outlet, these short courses offer a relaxed and engaging way to expand your knowledge. Many students find the experience rewarding, with opportunities to explore new interests and connect with like-minded people in a friendly community setting.

Learn. Grow. Thrive - with Byron Community College. Explore what's on offer today.

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GOT 5+ ACRES OF UNUSED LAND?

Partner with Into The Wild Escapes to host an off-grid, eco-friendly tiny home. They handle everything: marketing, bookings, guest services and maintenance. So you can earn passive income without the hassle. Prefer to be hands-on? Opportunities for involvement in maintenance or housekeeping are available.

They're seeking secluded properties with stunning natural landscapes; think bushland, rolling hills or coastal views. Ideal sites offer guests a sense of escape and immersion in nature with easy access.

Join them in promoting agri-tourism, supporting regional communities and sharing Australia's natural beauty.

Ready to transform your land into a nature retreat?

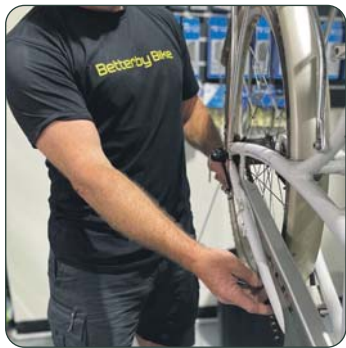
Visit intothewildescapes.com/host-a-tiny-home or email them at hosts@intothewildescapes.com to learn more.



The Scoop

BIKE MECHANIC AND SHOP OPENS IN BYRON'S A&I ESTATE

Better by Bike has opened a new bike mechanic workshop in the Byron Arts and Industry Estate. The local bike hire operator saw an opportunity to service the community's growing demand for quality bike servicing.



The business offers expert repair and servicing for all bike types, with a specialty in e-bikes and fat-tyre models. Their in-house mechanics handle everything from tube changes to full e-bike diagnostics, and a service starts at just \$100.

The shop features a range of bikes, e-bikes and accessories. Brands include Ampd Bros, DiroDi, Moustache and Giant.

For Northern Rivers Rail Trail adventures, their Murwillumbah Railway Station shop offers e-bike hire for the whole family and optional shuttle services and tours. Contact them to find out more!

Workshop open: Tues-Wed, 8am-5pm

Call (7 days): 0408 444 858

2/11 Grevillea Street, Byron Arts & Industrial Estate

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Private Wealth Advisers

Jake Blumberg – 02 8216 6359 – jblumberg@ords.com.au

Sam La Cava – 02 8216 6301 – slacava@ords.com.au

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SOMERVILLE LAUNDRY LOMAX

Natalie McDonnell was born and raised in the Northern Rivers, so she understands firsthand the needs of her local clients.



Natalie is a talented solicitor who is dedicated and compassionate. She provides comprehensive advice and tailored solutions to Byron Bay businesses, individuals and property owners.

Natalie practices in property law, commercial law and business law. She can assist you in multiple areas including: conveyancing and property law; wills and estate planning; leasing; administration and probate; business law; contractual disputes; commercial agreements; retirement living; property development; employment contracts.

For more information or to speak with Natalie:

Please call the Somerville Laundry Lomax office on 02 6680 8525

or visit their website: sll.com.au/contact-us/

SEEKING FINANCIAL GUIDANCE?

Navigating your financial future can be complex, but expert help is close to home. Alana Pincombe, Senior Financial Adviser at Viridian Advisory, offers trusted, personalised advice to help you make confident decisions. Whether you're planning for retirement, growing your investments, or managing a life change, she translates lifestyle goals into step-by-step plans for cash flow, debt, super and investment growth, and will support you every step of the way.



Based locally, Alana is backed by the strength of Viridian Financial Group's team of lending and investment specialists, providing you with one hub for finance, portfolio management and up-to-the-minute insights.

The result is clear - timely advice that lets local residents stay focused on the coastal life they love.

Contact Alana today to book a consultation.

apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au

0491 204 142

viridianadvisory.com.au

DISCOVER VISTARA PRIMARY SCHOOL A BEAUTIFUL VIEW TO EDUCATION

Nestled in the treetops of Richmond Hill, near Goonellabah, Vistara Primary School has been nurturing young minds for over 30 years. Aligned with the NSW syllabus, Vistara offers a calm, inclusive environment, where learning is guided by nature, creativity and compassion. With a focus on the whole child, every student is valued for who they are.



Enrolments are now open! To learn more and find out what makes Vistara Primary School unique, register for the upcoming Parent Information Session. If you can't make it, book a personal tour.

Wednesday 18th June

1.30pm-2.30pm

41 Richmond Hill Rd, Richmond Hill, near Goonellabah, 2480

To register, visit vistara.nsw.edu.au/infosession

or call 02 6624 4127.

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Things of Stone and Wood

Things of Stone and Wood bring the heart of '90s folk-rock to the **Ballina RSL** on Friday, July 25 and if the opening chords of 'Happy Birthday Helen' still tug at your heartstrings – or if you ever shouted 'Wildflowers' from the back seat of a car – this one's for you.

Beloved Aussie folk-rock icons Things of Stone and Wood will take the stage at Ballina RSL Auditorium, bringing their signature warmth, storytelling, and acoustic charm for one special night only. With reserved seating and a full house expected, this is more than a gig – it's a celebration of one of Australia's most loved bands.

Formed in Melbourne in the early '90s, the band carved a unique space in the national soundscape with their blend of folk, rock, and poetic lyricism. Their debut album *The Yearning* went gold. Their hit 'Happy Birthday Helen' became an instant classic (and yes, Greg is still married to Helen). Their parody on *The Late Show* lives

on with cult status. And in 1994, 'Wildflowers' was the most played Aussie song on the radio.

Singer/songwriter **Greg Arnold** was awarded APRA's Songwriter of the Year, and his thoughtful, sincere lyrics continue to strike a chord. But it's their live shows that truly define them – full of heart, humour, and harmony.

Their influence paved the way for a new generation of folk-acoustic artists – think John Butler, The Waifs, and Angus and Julia Stone – but there's something about Things of Stone and Wood that remains entirely their own.

Expect a setlist spanning beloved hits and deep cuts – from the foot-stomping energy of 'Rock This Boat' to the cheeky brilliance of 'The Man with the Perfect Hair' (yes, that's a nod to Kerry O'Brien). And with the band still in fine form, this is a chance to experience the music you love, live and loud.

Doors open at 7.30pm, with support from 8pm. Tickets are \$46 pre-sale or \$49.50 at the door. Book your dinner at The Boardwalk early – this is a night to savour.

Don't miss your chance to reconnect with one of Australia's most soulful and enduring bands. Things of Stone and Wood, July 25 in The Auditorium, Ballina RSL – 18+ reserved seating.

TIM FREEDMAN'S
Moonlit Deck
 2025
SAT 5 JULY
 2ND SHOW DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND
SUN 6 JULY 4pm
BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

Eclectic Selection WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✳️ **Katie Milae** loves playing a variety of music from most genres; old school to new school – her unique renditions of favourite songs are beautifully composed and leave her crowds in awe, wanting more. Katie's originality and captivating, contrasting vocals set her apart from the rest.

Friday from 5pm at the Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show

✳️ **EPIC**, created to boldly go where other cover bands dare not, are now celebrating their 11th year of aurally stimulating audiences along the Australian east coast.

Friday from 7pm at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show



✳️ **Steve Kilbey** is set to perform all his hits, and deep cuts from The Church, plus songs from his solo career and cover versions, all accompanied by anecdotes, tall tales and true, and pithy observations of the music business and his 45-year career.

Saturday at 7pm at the Brunswick Heads Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$44 via brunswickpicturehouse

✳️ Born the son of a preacher, **Dan Hannaford's** love of music started with listening to hymns and playing the drums in church on Sunday mornings. By his teens he had found rock & roll and formed his first punk band straight out of high school.

Since then Hannaford has earned a reputation as one of the hardest working, independent solo musicians on the east coast.

Wednesday 6pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show



✳️ Performing iconic Australian songs that have shaped **Kate Ceberano's** extraordinary 40 years on the road, this show is an invitation to feel the pulse of Australian music history through the eyes of one its most enduring and celebrated voices.

Saturday at 7pm in the Twin Towns Service Club Showroom. Tickets from \$79.90 via twintowns.com.au

✳️ **The Imperial Blues Review** brings together the seasoned, notable talents of local legends **John Hellmann, Azo Bell, Tim Longworth** and **Nicholas Churkin**. It's juke-joint, jumps, jive central – grab your spats and flats, it's time to cut a rug.

Sunday from 2.30pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk. Free show



✳️ Laden with a down-to-earth honesty and a healthy sense of humour, **Bill Jacobi's** songs are an eclectic amalgamation of swamp/roots, alternative country and hillbilly funk; that manage to look back at a wealth of musical tradition, have a good poke around and then turn and run the other way.

Sunday from 5.30pm at the Eltham Hotel. Free show

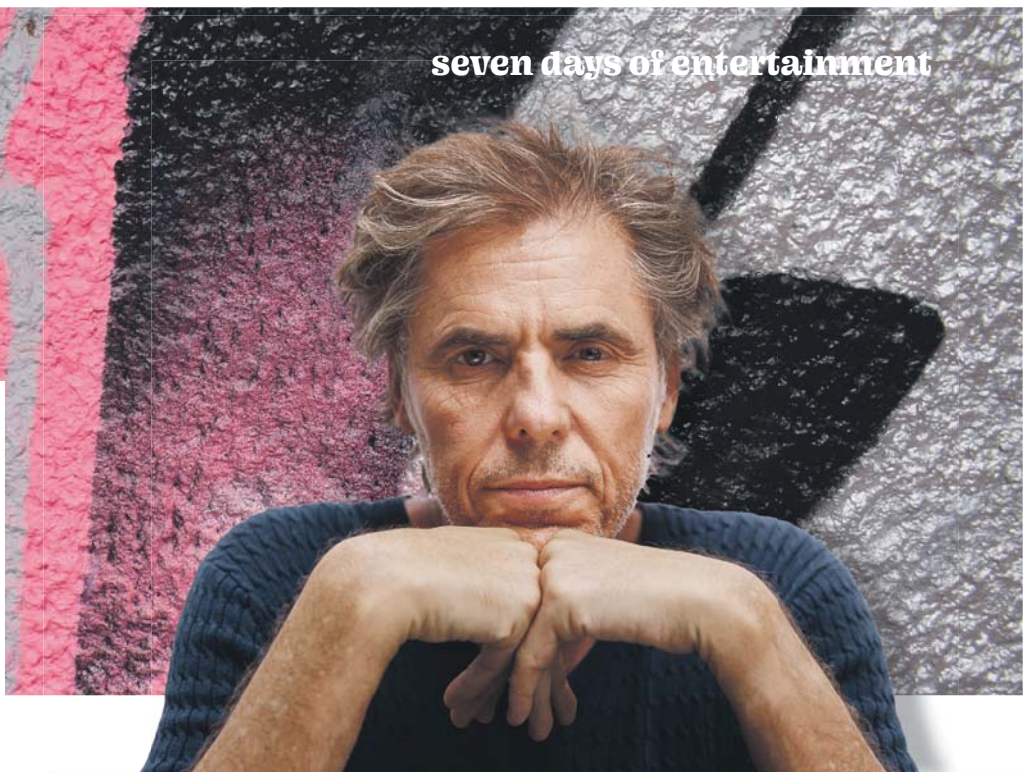
EDFYS! End Our Frantic Yearning for Support!

At BayFM, end of financial year isn't about sales and stuff. It's about vital donations to keep the station on air. As an independent, volunteer-run charity, funds are always super-tight. Please help End Our Frantic Yearning now!

Call BayFM on 6680 7999 today or visit bayfm.org/donate.



bayfm.org
 Listen like a local



Freedman's Moonlit Deck

Tim Freedman's Moonlit Deck tour rolls into the **Brunswick Picture House** on **Saturday, July 5**, and owing to popular demand, a second show has been added on **Sunday, July 6**.

Tim is performing with acclaimed electric and pedal steel guitarist **Ollie Thorpe**.

Tim will guide you through the highlights of The Whitlams' nine album catalogue such as 'Blow Up the Pokies' and 'No Aphrodisiac', and down some detours from his recent creative resurgence – the albums *Sancho* (2022) and *Kookaburra* (2024) – the latter nominated for best independent country album in the AIR Awards later this month.

The interplay between the piano and the pedal steel creates some intricate

orchestral effects, and this combined with the charming cynicism of Freedman's lyrics makes for an engaging show that sells out all around Australia.

In September after this cabaret run, Tim will lead The Whitlams in two sold-out shows with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at the 2,200-seat Hamer Hall in St Kilda.

Tim says, 'It's actually more satisfying getting it right as a duo in a 150-seat country hall than hiding in the middle of 50 classical musicians with all the smoke and mirrors.'

Freedman plays the Brunswick Pictures House on July 5 at 7pm and July 6 at 4pm. Tickets and information can be found at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



JOSH PYKE

Festival of the Stone this Saturday

Byron Bay's beloved **Festival of the Stone** is back this Saturday, promising a stellar night of live music, fresh local brews, and community spirit in the heart of the Arts & Industry Estate.

Hosted at the **Stone & Wood Brewery**, the annual winter festival is set to take over the precinct with two stages and a jam-packed lineup of homegrown talent. Playing on the Main Stage are **Old Mervs, Josh Pyke, The Belair Lip Bombs, DUST, Felony, and Strayfold** – while the **Brew Deck** will feature sets from dancefloor dynamos **Luen, Jessie Belters, Cashew, Rosasco, and Numbers**.

At the heart of the event is the tapping of the 2025 Stone Beer, brewed using a traditional method involving volcanic stones heated over fire and immersed into the brew, lending it its signature smoky caramel character. This year's batch was prepped at the annual Stone Brew Day in mid-May and will be officially tapped and poured at the festival.

A highlight on the local calendar, Festival of the Stone serves up more than just

music and beer. A mouthwatering lineup of food trucks and local vendors will keep hunger at bay, including Byron Bay Pretzels, Gunter's Flammkuchen, and Mamacitas with their crowd-favourite wurst.

Families are warmly welcomed, with the return of the popular **Malt Disney Art & Craft Zone** offering painting, mask-making, Play-Doh and other freeform creativity for kids. Garden games will also be on hand to keep little ones entertained.

As always, the event has a strong community focus, raising funds for Fletcher Street Cottage, a local service providing support and advocacy for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Festival of the Stone is a chance to gather with mates and welcome winter in the bay while enjoying great tunes, craft beer and community.

For more information and tickets, visit: stoneandwood.com.au.



Three days of stimulating workshops focusing on music for orchestra, string ensemble and concert band.

As a member of the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra, you'll have the opportunity to hone your skills, collaborate with other talented musicians, and perform in the grand finale on the big stage.

8 - 10 July 2025
School holidays

Juniors **\$175**
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More info: 6621 2266
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Enrol here



Northern Rivers Conservatorium

SEVEN

seven days of entertainment

GIG GUIDE

It's **FREE** to list your gigs in the gig guide.
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WEDNESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ELLA JONES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOE CONROY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **NIC CAMPBELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MITCHELL DORMER & SHANE PARRY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS **OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

THURSDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JESSE WHITNEY**
- BYRON FARMER'S MARKET 8AM **JOE CONROY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JORDAN MAC**, 6PM **SPANGLED THURSDAY FT. DAHLIA, WHO IS SHE, SHLUFFY AND MOPOKE**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & SAM WHEAT**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- CIVIC HOTEL, LISMORE, 7PM **GRIM RHYTHM WITH GHOST VARIATIONS & MULCH**

FRIDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **EPIC**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **BYRON THEATRE ALLSTARS + SCREENING 'PULP FICTION'**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **SOFIE ROZE**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **KYLE LIONHART**
- ARTS FACTORY GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OPIUO + MARNIE, RISSY ELLIOTT, GRUG & Z.I.V**

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR DUO**, 8PM **VELVET BLOOM**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – SAM WHEAT & MICK BUCKLEY + BODHI ACTON & JAKE BRISTOW**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **GRIM RHYTHM WITH THE RIP & THE MAGGOTS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BOO SEEKA**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **'STARSHINE' TRIBUTE TO STEVIE NICKS & FLEETWOOD MAC**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **ADAM GARDINER**, 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM **DUE EAST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **KATIE MILAE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **KASEY CHAMBERS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 5.30PM **DAVE HUGHES**

SATURDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **LUKE PAULEY + MICKA SCENE DUO**, 9PM **WOLFMOTHER + SEASIDE & JEFF BENZOS**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **SCREENING 'WILDING'**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ MR NICE + DJ NAT WHITE**
- PLAYGROUND, BYRON BAY, 4.20PM **VERSACE BOYS, MOHILAA, JUMAN & THE BAYWATCH RIDDIM SQUAD, ANDY V, SUNNY SIDE UP, GROOVE BAHIA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTY ROGERS DUO + JB'S BLUE BREAKERS**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & JOHN HILL + BODHI ACTON & SAM WHEAT**

- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 6.30PM **RECESS – BYRON COMMUNITY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER FT GROOVE TERMINATOR, THE VERSACE BOYS AND SALLY SOUND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SKY EATER, THE 4'20 SOUND AND JESSE MORRIS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **STEVE KILBEY**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 9.30AM **ROD MURRAY JAZZ**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **YAZMINDI DUO**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **THE CATH SIMES & JAMIE SULLIVAN DUO**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **SIMON BOLT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM **DJ DEEP FRYER**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MERLIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ADAM BROWN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **KATE CEBERANO**

SUNDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS BROWN DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **EPIC**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ ALICE Q**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SAM BUCKLEY**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **KYLE LIONHART**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **SWAMP CATS OPEN MIC**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **BEN WHITING**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **JOSE**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **THE LINELOCKERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT IMPERIAL BLUES REVIEW + PAULA MCMAHON**

- ELTHAM HOTEL 5.30PM **BILL JACOBI**
- UKI MARKET 8AM **MATTY ROGERS DUO + OLLIE TWHILL**
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 3PM **MARTIN WAY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **UBUNTU – AFRICA**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **MAKE THEM SUFFER**

MONDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

TUESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LEO GARCIA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

WEDNESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **BEN WHITING**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **SCREENING NT LIVE: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **NIC CAMPBELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MITCHELL DORMER & DIZZY J**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS **OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- LENNOX PIZZA 6.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**



CINEMA

The best from Spain

The 2025 **HSBC Spanish Film Festival** will be bringing the fiesta to Byron Bay this June with a curated selection of 30 films from Spain and Latin America, showing at **Palace Cinemas**.

The party will start with opening night comedy *Samana Sunrise (Amanece en Samaná)*, featuring an all-star cast including **Luis Zahera**, **María Luisa Mayol**, **Luis Tosar** and **Bárbara Santa-Cruz**. The story follows two Spanish couples celebrating their 20-year friendship with a trip to a beachside resort in the Dominican Republic, where a confession about the past leads to a reality shifting 'sliding doors' moment.

The centrepiece of the Festival is the highly acclaimed *EL 47*, which recently won five Goya Awards including the coveted Best Film. Inspired by a true story, from writer/director **Marcel Barrena**, this biographical drama starring **Eduard Fernández** follows a bus driver in an act of peaceful dissidence that transformed modern Barcelona during the city's boom in the 1970s.

A 2025 special presentation is *Undercover (La infiltrada)*, co-winner of Best Film at the 2025 Goya Awards. This gripping crime thriller set in the Basque Country is based on the real-life story of Aranzazu Berradre Marin, the pseudonym for the only police officer in Spanish history to infiltrate the terrorist organisation ETA.

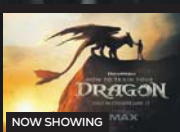
From celebrated auteur **Julio Medem** comes *Ocho (8)*, a romantic drama that spans almost a century of Spanish history. Over 90 years, *Ocho* encounters Mark Octavio and Adela's tumultuous and passionate relationship, mirroring pivotal moments in the country's history.

In this year's new Spanish cinema selection is *The Goldsmith's Secret (El secreto del orfebre)*, an epic romance adapted from **Elia Barceló's** critically-acclaimed novel. It stars **Mario Casas** as a goldsmith who revisits his Spanish hometown, reconnecting with a great love affair from 25 years prior.

The 2025 HSBC Spanish Film Festival is in Byron Bay from June 19 to July 9 at Palace Byron Bay. Tickets are now on sale. For updates and more information, visit www.spanishfilmfestival.com

PALACE CINEMAS

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JUNE 12
TO WEDNESDAY JUNE 18



PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- HANS ZIMMER & FRIENDS: DIAMOND IN THE DESERT** (PG) Thurs: 6:30PM, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM
- JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE** (PG) Sat, Sun: 3:50PM
- ROYAL OPERA: DIE WALKÜRE** (PG) Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM
- SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD** (PG) Mon: 6:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

- A MINECRAFT MOVIE** (PG) Daily: 10:50AM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM

KARATE KID: LEGENDS (PG) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 5:45PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 6:50PM, Mon: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 8:20PM, Wed: 5:45PM, 8:00PM

LILO & STITCH (PG) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 3:45PM, 6:10PM

ALL FILMS

- BEATING HEARTS** (MA15+) Daily: 1:00PM
- DANGEROUS ANIMALS** (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:50PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM, Sat, Sun: 6:00PM, 8:15PM

ELLIS PARK (ICTO) Daily: 4:15PM

FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES (MA15+) Daily: 8:30PM

FROM THE WORLD OF JOHN WICK: BALLERINA (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:40PM, 8:30PM, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 8:30PM

MATERIALISTS (M) Daily: 11:10AM, 1:45PM, 4:20PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M) Daily except Thurs: 11:20AM, 2:40PM, 6:40PM, Thurs: 11:20AM, 2:40PM, 7:50PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG) Daily: 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM

SINNERS (MA15+) Daily: 8:10PM

THE GREAT LILLIAN HALL (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 3:20PM, Sun, Wed: 11:10AM

THE PHOENICIAN SCHEME (M) Daily: 11:15AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM

THE SALT PATH (M) Thurs, Mon, Wed: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, Fri, Tues: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 8:00PM, Sat: 1:30PM, 8:00PM, Sun: 1:30PM

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) Daily: 8:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO (PG) Sat: 1:00PM

FROM THE WORLD OF JOHN WICK: BALLERINA (MA15+) Daily: 2:45PM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) Daily except Sat, Tues: 10:00AM, 12:10PM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:50PM, Sat: 10:20AM, 12:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:50PM, Tues: 10:00AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:50PM

KARATE KID: LEGENDS (PG) Daily except Sat: 9:50AM, 12:00PM, Sat: 9:50AM

LILLO & STITCH (PG) Daily except Sat: 9:45AM, 12:30PM, 5:20PM, Sat: 9:45AM, 11:55AM, 4:45PM

MATERIALISTS (M) Daily except Sat: 2:50PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, Sat: 2:10PM, 5:15PM, 7:20PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M) Daily except Sat: 7:15PM, Sat: 7:00PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG) Tues: 12:30PM



A Lesson in Self-Care

Mandy Nolan

Everyone always says, 'you should look after yourself'. I have always wondered what they mean. Do I have food in my teeth? Am I looking a bit rough? Is my tag sticking out? Does my breath smell? Did I even ask you?

BTW never tell a woman she looks 'tired'. It's never appreciated. Looking tired is never up there with healthy and gorgeous. It means worn out. Ravaged. And shit. It's up there with 'well', which we know means 'a bit fat'. While I'm on this, maybe just stop commenting on what women look like. It makes us feel weird inside.

I know people are talking about 'self-care'. Which to me always reminds me of a cat having a licky bath. I can't watch cats lick themselves, it grosses me out. But I guess, you'd have to call that self-care, at least for cats. I don't do that. I've always been big on self-neglect. Put yourself last.

Be a martyr. It's my Catholic upbringing. Nothing like a bit of suffering to get you up in the morning. Self-flagellation is probably the opposite to licking. Unless you have a spikey tongue ... I think cats have spikey tongues. Gross.

I was thinking of this at 3am the other morning when I woke up needing to go to the toilet. You know that excruciating sleepy feeling? When you are half-asleep, but you are desperate for a wee, but you just don't have the energy to get up, so you fall back to sleep, and the bladder pain just gets more intense. It's because you didn't deal with it.

Your body sends you a signal. It sends you the 'discomfort' message. And you go, 'F that, I'm overriding discomfort, because you know what else is discomfort? Getting out of bed at 3am in the cold and having to walk 15 steps to the toilet. I don't care. Not doing it.' But your body goes - 'really dickhead? You want to play it like this? How about I double the urine load? Let's see who wins the discomfort war now!'



When you are half-asleep, but you are desperate for a wee, but you just don't have the energy to get up, so you fall back to sleep, and the bladder pain just gets more intense.

I am thinking this while I lie in bed and don't get up. I'm in pain. And I'm not asleep. I'm in pain because I want to be asleep and won't engage in a small inconvenience for my own wellbeing. I have become a 'pisskeeper'. I have chosen to suffer and hope it will go away. That seems nuts. The only way it goes away is if I wet the bed, and I haven't crossed that line. Yet.

I have an epiphany. This is a metaphor for self-care. You have to do the thing you don't feel like because in the long run it will benefit you. Like brushing your teeth. Or exercising. Or unpacking the dishwasher. There will be a little bit of annoyance but it will be followed by results. I got up, went to the bathroom, returned and fell asleep. Getting up wasn't as bad, or as difficult, as I thought it was going to be. Thinking about it was a lot worse than doing it. It was over in a minute. I

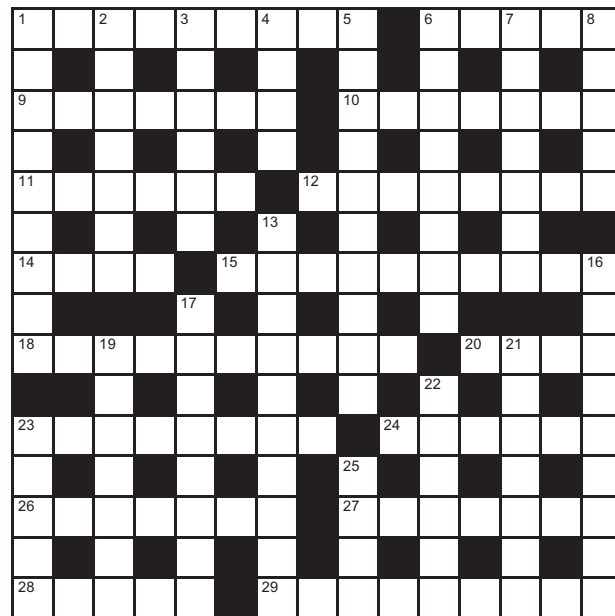
fell asleep in seconds. I had been lying in bed having a bladder war for 40 minutes. The war took up more time than the surrender. It's crazy being human. AI couldn't write us.

Self-care isn't so bad after all. Why don't you give it a go? By the way, you're looking a bit tired.

■ Mandy Nolan's Soapbox column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 23 years. The personal and the political often meet here; she's also been the Greens federal candidate since before the last two federal elections. *The Echo's* coverage of political issues will remain as comprehensive and fair as it has ever been, outside this opinion column which, as always, contains Mandy's personal opinions only.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke

#59



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Unsteady movement must be damaging jewellery (9)
- Base to cage can be swivelled to reveal shelters (5)
- French city soon to host five inter-governmental heads (7)
- Musical footstep! (7)
- Cancer perhaps a subject engaging Romeo (6)
- Lib asks independent to change position on mythical beast (8)
- Come down to earth (4)
- Calculation one originally made erroneously in her attic (10)
- Awareness of criminal leader forging new age coins (10)
- Hypochondriac means to maintain height (4)
- Marine invertebrates exposed by erosion of Nordic island (8)
- Fool nearly starts to over sew threadbare fabric (6)
- Abstain from repeating passage (7)
- Animosities that's more offensive to audience (7)
- Decaying Roman country house (5)
- Beginning to inhale carbon and oxygen in crop bins is causing lung disease (9)

DOWN

- Know-all hurt with a large English can opener (5,4)
- Councillor intrudes on marriage of mythical beast (7)
- New York pub, one rebuilt to show mythical Australian beast (6)
- Premier losing millions in pubs (4)
- Extremely grumpy man put off by small muscle spasms in floor and bar exercises, etc (10)
- Burns, enveloping one with metre and alliteration, initially has a strong appeal (8)
- Racecourse identity buttonholes gentleman-turned-traveller (7)
- Second bite of sausage (5)
- Spooner's boyfriend scraps with dogs (5,5)
- Mixed-race tribe's origin sure to be represented as beasts (9)
- Child boxes Greek character, a mythical beast (8)
- Mythical beast riffing informally (7)
- Mythical beast has time cut short by surgical procedures (7)
- Paradoxical King represented in a style of architecture (6)
- Macron injured, knight totalled, by collision (5)
- Point initially lost in exam (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Clumsy or unsteady movement (9)
- Shelters for small animals (5)
- French city known for its papal palace (7)
- Size or amount of something (7)
- Region between the equator and parallel of latitude (6)
- Legendary reptile with lethal gaze (8)
- Solid part of Earth's surface (4)
- Branch of maths dealing with basic calculations (10)
- Awareness or knowledge (10)
- Highest point or stage (4)
- Marine animals related to starfish (8)
- Knitted fabric used in lingerie (6)
- Hold oneself back (7)
- Deep-seated resentment (7)
- Large country house with estate (5)
- Lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust (9)

DOWN

- Person who causes irritation by claiming great knowledge (5,4)
- Mythical horse-like creature (7)
- Legendary creature from Aboriginal folklore (6)
- They provide lodging and meals (4)
- Sport involving physical exercises and routines (10)
- Compelling attractiveness or charm (8)
- Person travelling for pleasure (7)
- Tiny mark or spot (5)
- Members of a large breed of dog (5,5)
- Living beings or animals (9)
- Mythical beast with human body and bull's head (8)
- Legendary beast with eagle's head and lion's body (7)
- One-eyed giant of Greek mythology (7)
- Contrary to what one might expect (6)
- Rebound after collision (5)
- Relating to the mouth or spoken communication (4)

Last week's solution #58



STARS BY LILITH

This week's celestial news is Jupiter settling into Cancer, setting home and family as a primary agenda for the coming year ...



GEMINI THE TWINS

ARIES: Thinking that Saturn installing a new level of maturity in your sign over the next two-and-a-half years sounds boring? So not, because the many-ringed planet isn't just all about boot camp and slog: Saturnalia was the ancient let-your-hair-down time of hearty after-work partying.

TAURUS: This week sets your hooves into more solid soil for having that honest conversation with family member, friend or colleague. Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending something never happened: it's about agreeing to a way forward. Respectful dialogue that's not about scorekeeping could shift an awkward dynamic.

GEMINI: You couldn't ask for more economically-stimulating birthday news than generous Jupiter bringing the Midas Touch to your money zone for the coming year. When Mercury gears down this week into take-it-easy mode you'll need less input and more quiet time, so start thinking 'Ready, set, slow.'

CANCER: Full moon on 11 June offers an exciting learning curve through travel, education, or someone from another country or culture. It's followed by generous, big picture Jupiter landing in Cancer for a year of growth and expansion which, as you know, needs a solid, stable base and supportive foundation.

LEO: Lightning flashes of insight could make this an excellent week to take an honest audit of your relational landscape. Might you have gone a little overboard in expressing yourself lately? Mercury in its kindest modality helps address issues with more emotional regulation, engaging others with warmth and charm.

VIRGO: Virgo's mentor planet Mercury settling into the zodiac's most domestic sign, sends this week on an inward trajectory to strengthen your boundaries and privacy settings where personal intel is concerned. Consider a social media fast, and use the time saved to redécor your home space into a supportive sanctuary.

LIBRA: While this flirty, fashion-conscious cycle issues a siren call to the new and unexplored, Venus in personal reclamation mode is asking who's been taking you for granted? If it's you, your planet guide's move into the sign of financial solidarity says wake up and realise your value.

SCORPIO: With Mercury moving into receptive mode this week, logical, sensible arguments might meet with resistance, but appeals to sympathetic understanding are likely to get a better response. Training your laser-like focus and mental attention on what you want to manifest could also produce some rewarding results.

SAGITTARIUS: This year's full moon in Sagittarius on 11 June sees your truth-seeking gypsy spirit and multicultural personality at its most vibrant. Savvy archers are advised that Jupiter heading into its most domestic setting for the coming 12 months gives a celestial thumbs-up to home-based businesses.

CAPRICORN: Jupiter's annual move could heat up the residential real estate market, creating opportunities for buyers. It also suggests working from home might be on your agenda in the coming year, and if you were considering a trip to the land of your ancestors, this is a prime time to plan.

AQUARIUS: With Pluto's retrograde in Aquarius you can expect to soon be stepping out of old patterns into a shiny new identity via a series of radical shifts. As a prelude to launching your official reinvention, this week asks: What is most important for people to see and understand about you?

PISCES: As expansive Jupiter pays its first visit since 2014 to the zodiac sign of home base, if you're in the mood to move, buy or sell, it's nice to know the stars are on your side. Staying put? Then prep your space for guests and some scintillating entertaining *chez vous*.

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Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

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Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

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Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
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Echo

HAPPY 39TH

to *The Echo* and all the Drudges



Enjoy Your Last Year As A Tricenarian

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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If you live in Newrybar, Lennox Head or Ballina, but outside our current home delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations, including: Newrybar Providore Newrybar; Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St Takeaway near the Shawsy, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox

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BIRTHDAYS

Happy 3



Soli Sea

R.I.P PETS

OUR DARLING BILLY



Passed away last Thursday evening with his beloved Cathy by his side in Ocean Shores. He was very well-known in the Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads townships and brought so much joy to everyone he met on his morning walks every day. He will be greatly missed.
Vicky and Alicia.

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



HELMIE

Helmie, a purebred Border Collie, 6 months old – sweet, smart, and full of energy! Helmie is affectionate, well-socialised, and great with other dogs. He's ready for training and needs space to run and thrive. Perfect for a hobby farm or active rural home. Surrendered for a better future – now seeking the right one!
Please contact Shell on 0458461935.
MC:953010007018924

SASSY



Sassy is an absolute sweetheart! With her classic tabby markings and captivating eyes, Sassy is as lovely to look at as she is to cuddle. She's incredibly affectionate and loves nothing more than to purr up a storm while snuggled in your lap. Sassy is playful and curious, always ready to explore her surroundings, she has a gentle nature and would likely adapt well to a loving family environment.
MC#95301002255266. Rehoming # R251000060.

NRAS
Northern Rivers Animal Services

T: 66811860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au



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Classifieds



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Morty is a 1.5 year old, Bull Arab Mastiff Bloodhound X. He is progressing well with his training and will need a family willing to continue with his education. Morty would do best in a home with older children and would love an active family to bond with.
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SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (June)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
11	W	6:35 / 16:56	16:34 / 6:25	0801 1.19; 2045 1.78	0238 0.50; 1335 0.38
12	TH	6:35 / 16:56	17:27 / 7:21	0842 1.18; 2123 1.78	0317 0.48; 1412 0.38
13	F	6:36 / 16:56	18:25 / 8:13	0922 1.17; 2202 1.78	0357 0.48; 1450 0.39
14	SA	6:36 / 16:56	19:26 / 9:01	1004 1.16; 2243 1.76	0438 0.48; 1532 0.41
15	SU	6:36 / 16:56	20:28 / 9:43	1051 1.16; 2324 1.73	0521 0.48; 1617 0.45
16	M	6:37 / 16:56	21:30 / 10:20	1143 1.17	0606 0.47; 1708 0.50
17	TU	6:37 / 16:56	22:32 / 10:54	0008 1.69; 1241 1.20	0653 0.46; 1806 0.56
18	W	6:37 / 16:56	23:33 / 11:25	0056 1.63; 1345 1.26	0742 0.44; 1914 0.61
19	TH	6:37 / 16:56	11:56	0148 1.56; 1452 1.36	0830 0.41; 2030 0.64
20	F	6:38 / 16:57	0:35 / 12:28	0246 1.48; 1558 1.48	0920 0.37; 2151 0.63
21	SA	6:38 / 16:57	1:40 / 13:03	0348 1.40; 1700 1.62	1009 0.33; 2310 0.58
22	SU	6:38 / 16:57	2:48 / 13:43	0453 1.33; 1758 1.76	1059 0.29
23	M	6:38 / 16:57	4:00 / 14:30	0557 1.28; 1853 1.87	0021 0.50; 1148 0.26
24	TU	6:38 / 16:58	5:12 / 15:26	0657 1.24; 1945 1.95	0125 0.42; 1238 0.24
25	W	6:39 / 16:58	6:21 / 16:29	0753 1.22; 2036 1.99	0221 0.36; 1328 0.24

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

Community at Work

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, 15 June from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarkes Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Peter 0488 715 565.

Secondhand book fair

Friends of Libraries are holding their annual secondhand book fair and wish to thank all contributing donors of books for 2025, as our storage shed is now full please save any further books until next year. This year's Book Fair will be held at the Byron Bay Surf Cup from 11-14 July, doors open 9am to 4pm each day. Over 1,000 books of all categories some extremely rare, ancient, or very topical, plus

many hidden treasures, all in good condition. One of the highlights of the four days is the Friends of Libraries huge raffle, with over 20 locally selected prizes and drawn on the last day of the Fair. A event not to be missed.
Further information: www.byronbayfol.com

Youth arts Glimmer Lab

Glimmer Lab is a Byron Youth Service Contemporary Arts Program for youth aged 16 to 21. Held at The YAC each Wednesday afternoon until 2 July, Glimmer Lab encourages creativity in an accessible and inclusive environment. For more information or to sign up contact Karma on 0490 801 418 or karma@bys.org.au.

Brunswick VIEW

The Brunswick Valley VIEW Club will hold a luncheon meeting on 12 June at the Brunswick Valley Bowling Club, Brunswick Heads from 10.30am for 11am. Any apologies call Wanda on: 0449 563 580 or email: wjhunt@yahoo.com.au.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, and South Tweed. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed)

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	
Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each FRI	Evans Head 2.30-6.30pm	0428 291 068
Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am	
Each SAT	Wadeville 8am-12pm	
Each SAT	Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000

AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay

131 233

POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510

Mullumbimby..... 6629 7570

Byron Bay 6685 9499

Bangalow..... 6629 7500

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Storm & tempest damage, flooding 132 500

BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE

Primary rescue 6685 1999

BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER

..... 6685 0148

BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL 6639 9400

BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY

AFTER HOURS 6622 7022

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

(Mullumbimby) 6684 1286

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

24 hour crisis line 1800 656 463

LIFELINE..... 131 114

MENSLINE..... 1300 789 978

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours

..... 1800 423 431

AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics

..... 1300 252 666

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Meets daily 6680 7280

NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE 6687 2520

HIV/AIDS - ACON

Confidential testing & information 6622 1555

ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)

..... 6622 1881

NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE

CARERS 6628 1866

KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233

WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service..... 6628 1898

are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina and South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Carers' support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers' Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

\$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn't matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Pottsville Community Association

Pottsville Community Association meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at the Anglican Church in Coronation Drive, Pottsville. Have your say on what is going on in your local area. For details contact secretary@pottsvillecommunityassociation.com or via Facebook.

Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact byronbaylanguages@gmail.com.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm and market Saturdays 9am-1pm. Discover your local history, join our team - 6684 4367.

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads** Library, Monday - Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday - Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby** Library, Monday - Story Time 10-11am; Tuesday - Baby Time 10-10.30 am.

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Social sporting groups

Mullumbimby: Tuesday Ladies Group of Riverside Tennis Club welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058. **South Golden Shores Community Centre** Women's table tennis every Monday at 10am. Phone 0435 780 017. **Byron Bay Croquet** at Croquet Club next to the Scout Hall at the Byron Rec Grounds every Monday at 3.30pm. Ring 0477 972 535. **Pottsville Fun Croquet Club** at Black Rocks Sportfield. Beginners and visitors welcome. Game starts 8.30am Tuesday and Thursday. \$5 per game. Enquiries 0413 335 941.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters Club is a group for public speaking. It meets on the first and third Monday of the month 6.15pm - 8.30pm, Byron Services Club, 132 Jonson St Byron Bay. For more information email: Selin@selin.ebeci@gmail.com. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30-8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Ian Hamilton 0458 268 469.

Brunswick Heads CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meet Fridays 10am-2pm, cnr Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat and cuppa, bring along your craft projects including sewing, knitting, crocheting, or quilting. Beginners welcome. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
 New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



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Depot Byron: Where Design Meets Industry in Byron's Creative Heart

Welcome to Depot Byron, a purpose-built creative and industrial precinct where business, design, and lifestyle converge. Positioned in Byron Bay's dynamic Arts and Industry Estate, Depot Byron offers a rare opportunity to establish your business in one of Australia's most forward-thinking and design-driven environments. More than just a business park, Depot is a collaborative hub, a space for innovators, makers, and entrepreneurs to craft, connect, and grow.

This architecturally-designed enclave comprises 26 premium warehouses, each crafted with flexibility, function, and aesthetic appeal in mind. Whether you're a furniture designer, fashion label, wellness studio, boutique manufacturer, or service provider, Depot Byron has been curated to support the full spectrum of master crafts that Byron Bay continues to attract. With a strong emphasis on quality, community, and longevity, this precinct offers the only high-end

industrial warehouses currently available for sale in Byron Bay.

At the heart of the precinct lies a vibrant on-site cafe, creating a natural meeting point for tenants and visitors alike. The cafe adds to the sense of community while supporting the daily rhythm of business activity with fresh food, coffee, and connection. It's this thoughtful balance of functionality and lifestyle that sets Depot Byron apart.

Now fully complete and ready for occupation, seven warehouses remain available, with spaces starting from 176sqm to 213sqm. Designed to be both beautiful and practical, each unit features soaring +7.5m floor-to-ceiling heights, generous mezzanine clearances, and internal amenities including a kitchenette and full bathroom with shower. Depot Byron's warehouses are not cookie-cutter shells, they are smart, sophisticated workspaces that elevate your day-to-day operations.

Each warehouse includes:

- Flexible layouts with various sizes to suit different business types
- High clearance electric roller doors for easy access
- Wall-mounted split-system air-conditioning
- Internal kitchens and bathrooms with showers
- Dedicated on-site car-parking for staff and visitors
- Dual access via Centennial Circuit and Tasman Way
- Located within the E4 General Industrial zoning, allowing for a broad range of business uses.

Strategically located, Depot Byron is just:

- 5 minutes from Byron Bay's CBD
- 5 minutes from the M1 Pacific Motorway
- 25 minutes to Ballina Airport
- 40 minutes to Gold Coast Airport.

Beyond its physical features, what truly distinguishes Depot Byron is its long-term value. As demand for commercial space in Byron Bay's Arts and Industry Estate continues to grow, opportunities to own premium, purpose-built industrial real estate are increasingly rare. Owning your premises at Depot



not only secures your business's future but protects you from the volatility of rent increases and provides a tangible asset in a tightly held market.

Depot Byron embodies the ethos of Byron itself, conscious, creative, and future-focused. It's a place where you can build something lasting, surrounded by like-minded businesses in a setting that fosters innovation and well-being. Here, work-life balance isn't just a concept, it's built into the very foundations of the precinct.

Whether you're scaling a business, launching a new venture, or seeking a premium warehouse space with room to grow, Depot Byron delivers an unmatched blend of quality, convenience, and community. This is an opportunity to anchor your brand in one of Australia's most inspiring coastal business communities.

To enquire about available units, call Steve Schiavone on 0411 758 822 or Kath Vaubell on 0415 410 633, or visit



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73 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

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760M²

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WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION
AUCTION | 10th July 12pm
OPEN | Sat 14th June 9 - 9:30am



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27 ROSES ROAD, FEDERAL



Beautifully Updated 1920s Cottage in Sought-After Federal

3 beds 2 lounge 2 baths 1 car
963M²

- North aspect with abundant natural light, high ceilings and polished timber floorboards
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- The kitchen and living areas flow effortlessly onto a large covered deck
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PRICE | Contact Agent
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58 CORKWOOD CRESCENT, SUFFOLK PARK



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73 MAFEKING ROAD, GOONENGERRY



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Auction: Sat 21st Jun, 11:00am on site

2 1 2 8000m²

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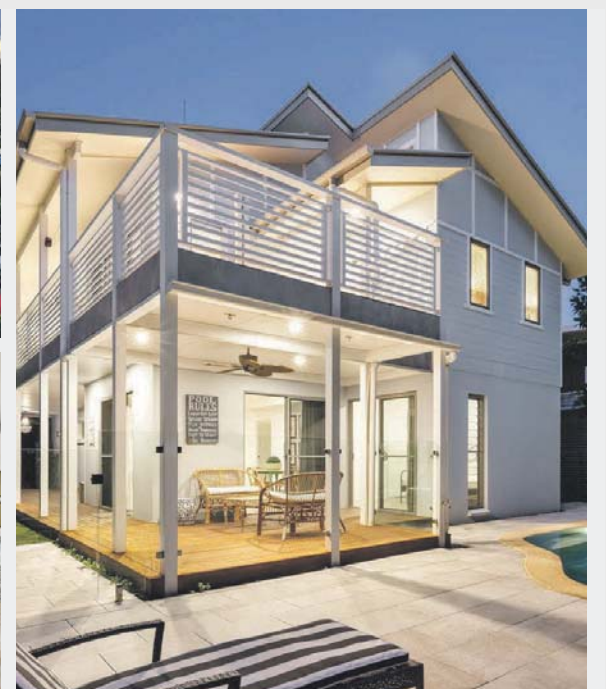
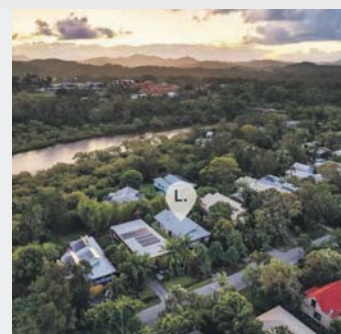
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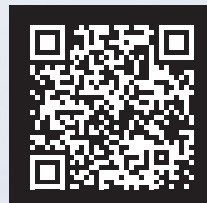
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Trust the AI? Jo Immig takes a look at what's at stake on page 10. Meanwhile, Chinese AI bot DeepSeek refuses to acknowledge the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, according to a *Guardian* report from January.

Psst: Murwillumbah's World Environment Day Festival has been postponed until Sunday July 13 owing to Knox Park being too wet. The free community event will be held at the Murwillumbah Showgrounds from 10am till 3.30pm. For more info see page 8 or visit www.calderaenvironmentcentre.org.

There's a big swag of items that councillors will be voting on this Thursday. One being the saga of a large exclusive greenfield development application (DA) that comes with multiple issues and botched processes. It also involves the deputy mayor, who acted as a consultant on the wealthy developer's plans. One would think providing a good example of development would be in the interests of Cr Jack Dods, yet the DA is a shemuzzle – see page 1.

Former Belle Property Byron Bay director, Sarah Dougan, has lost her appeal to be sentenced remotely after pleading guilty to charges of fraud. The ABC reports that the Supreme Court has ordered Dougan, who lives in the US, to return to Australia to face a sentencing hearing over the theft of \$540,000. She has claimed she cannot return to Australia for 'personal reasons'.

Byron Shire Council has been awarded \$1.25 million from the NSW government's Get



French Bulldog Archie and his best friend, Aleesha Hurst, were at last Saturday's Furry Friends Festival at Bangalow Showgrounds. The event, hosted by Byron Shire Council, celebrated our animal companions with treats, prizes and giveaways. Photo Jeff Dawson

NSW Active program – the funds will go towards a new footpath from Brooke Drive towards the lighthouse.

North Coast Local Landcare has partnered with Byron Shire Council to create two new tools to help landholders regenerate their land for wild-life habitat. Visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au for more info.

So the 47th US president is on the unreleased Jeffery Epstein files, according to his former besty, Elon Musk. Before the tiff, Musk was given access through DOGE to everything the US government has on file. As such, he has presumably made copies of everything he could, which is way more power than the richest man-baby on Earth can buy.

Remember: Your fingers have finger tips, but your toes don't have toe tips, yet you can tiptoe, but not tipfinger.

A Free Palestine rally was held Tuesday morning at the Byron Post Office. Around 40

people gathered to highlight the ongoing genocide by Israel, led by PM Netanyahu.

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